



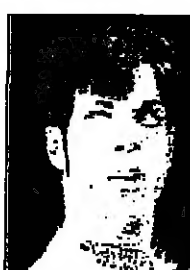
Libby Purves

Why the old romance of New Superman sets mothers dreaming, page 17



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The name has changed, but...

David Sinclair finds the former Prince stranded up a blind alley, page 15

20P

THE TIMES

No. 65,207

MONDAY MARCH 6 1995

ING favourite to take over bank

Bonus battle on brink of Barings deal

By Philip Webster, Patricia Tehan and Neil Bennett

TWO Dutch banking rivals were locked in negotiations last night to buy Barings as concern grew about an alleged lack of control at the top of the stricken merchant bank during the Singapore dealings by Nick Leeson.

Although agreement was reported to be close, a last-minute stumbling block was understood to be the demand by executives at the bank that they should still receive bonuses totalling more than £100 million. The bonuses apparently would be based on last year's operating profits.

Despite the dispute, the Internationale Nederlanden Groep (ING) appeared to be poised to win the battle for Barings after a renewed attempt to trump its offer from ABN Amro, its rival. ABN had withdrawn from the auction last week when ING said that it was interested in acquiring most of the Barings business. ABN had at first been interested only in the corporate finance arm and, perhaps, its asset management business.

When ING's exclusive negotiating rights ended without a deal being struck, however, it returned to the negotiating table on Saturday with a joint bid with Smith Barney, the Wall Street broker. At the end of the day, the administrators, from Ernst & Young, the accountants, wanted to sell the bank as a whole rather than breaking it up.

The directors of the Barings corporate finance team favoured the deal they had struck with ABN last week. They wanted to take their team to ABN.

Reports last night that the directors were holding out for bonuses provoked anger among charities with accounts frozen at the bank. A spokesman for the administrators said that the talks were extremely complex, but there were still strong hopes of a breakthrough. The prospective buyers were also reported to be annoyed at the attitude of the bank's top executives.

The latest twist came as Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, faces new pressure today to set up an independent enquiry after fresh disclosures cast doubt on the role of the Bank of England and Singapore blamed Barings for allowing the speculation that triggered the crash.

Goh Chok Tong, the Prime

LEESON'S LIFE BEHIND BARS



One shower a week, awakened before first light, a cell fit by 12ft, and a chance to earn eight marks a day as a cook or cleaner. Dominic Kennedy on life behind bars for Nick Leeson. Page 5

ROGUE TRADER?

Time for some Barings answers, says Neil Bennett in Singapore. Page 42

Charity rescue. 5
Authorities warned. 5
Dutch auction. 44

Chancellor has told aides that he wants first to establish all the facts rather than respond publicly to every new allegation that arises. He could be forced to come to the Commons, however, if Labour were to apply for and the Speaker to grant an emergency question from Gordon Brown, Shadow Chancellor. Mr Clarke's caution was seen as understandable by some senior Tories last night: they have assumed that he could not have been aware of the reported warning signals to the Barings board when he made his announcement establishing the Board of Banking Supervision enquiry.

Although Treasury sources denied that Mr Clarke was annoyed, they agreed that information not known to Mr Clarke at the time had emerged. They said it was because he regarded the present position as a "moving picture" that he did not want to deliver "kneejerk reactions" to every newspaper headline.

However, Labour was in a mood last night to return to the attack. Alistair Darling, its City spokesman, said the latest disclosures made a nonsense of Mr Clarke's acceptance that the collapse was the work of one "rogue trader". He said: "It does not stand up. It never did."

He added: "It is now also clear that there are broader policy implications following the collapse. It is not only the bank's management but also the role of the Bank of England as supervisor that is open to question."

The Chancellor had to explain what steps the Bank of England took to find out whether Barings had adequate internal controls or what checks it had carried out on any other banks that it supervised. "The Government has fostered a culture of complacency towards City regulation. It is essential to restore confidence."

The criticism from Singapore came after the disclosure that Simex, the Singapore Derivatives market, had summoned Anthony Hawes, the Barings group treasurer, to Singapore on February 8 to warn him of the sudden increase in the bank's trading activity. Mr Hawes had assured Simex that Barings knew about the trading and that funds would be sent from London to cover it.

EU crisis talks as peseta plunges

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN BRUSSELS

THE EUROPEAN Union's Monetary Committee gathered in an emergency session at Madrid's request yesterday, after a record low for the Spanish peseta and fears that Spain could seek a devaluation or leave the ERM.

The surprise meeting followed two weeks of turmoil in the European exchange-rate mechanism, which threatened to dump the peseta to the minimum level allowed within the ERM.

Market sources in the EU said that the Spanish central bank was seen intervening regularly during the past week, trying to prevent the peseta from sliding out of the currency grid.

After the 1993 European currency crisis, the standard ERM fluctuation bands were widened to 15 per cent from 2.25 per cent to prevent the sort of market punishment that is now being inflicted on the

peseta. Currently, the peseta has dropped to about 12 per cent below the central rate and there are fears that it will drop further without massive intervention.

A European monetary source said Spain could either seek a devaluation or it could choose to leave the ERM entirely like the pound did in 1992.

Such action would be a political blow for the Socialist government of Felipe Gonzalez, which has been a staunch defender of monetary union in the EU. It would display for all to see Spain's trouble in reaching EU targets necessary before a single currency can be adopted.

□ Lisbon: Portugal is studying a request for realignment of the peseta by neighbouring Spain, a Bank of Portugal spokesman said. (Reuters)

Ailing dollar, page 44



The Dean arriving for Communion yesterday: "My conscience is clear before God"

Dean denies sex charge in front of congregation

By John Young

THE Dean of Lincoln, the Very Reverend Brandon Jackson, stood before the congregation in his cathedral yesterday to deny that he had had an affair with a woman who had served as a vergier.

Dr Jackson, who attended the morning Communion service with his wife Mary, described the allegations by Verity Freestone as ridiculous and totally untrue. After reading the statement prepared with the help of a solicitor, he listened while Canon Brian Hebblethwaite preached on selfishness, lust and "base desires".

Dr Jackson, 60, who is to face a consistory court on a charge of having an "improper" sexual relationship, told the congregation: "I have been aware of the allegations, as have my family and friends, since they were first made over a year ago."

"The Bishop and I are agreed that it is now in the best interests of the Church

and everyone connected with the cathedral, as well as my family and myself, to make the matter public. In view of the fact that the case is now sub judice, I am unable to comment further, save as to say that my conscience is clear before God."

He told the congregation that the "ridiculous allegation" was totally untrue and

would be strenuously resisted. The Bishop, the Right Reverend Robert Hardy, had agreed with him that he should take leave of absence until the matter was resolved, to allow him time to prepare his case. He thanked the congregation for their support and prayers.

In his sermon, Canon Hebblethwaite said: "We are all aware of the prevalence of sin and wickedness. Our newspapers and television screens are full of it. There is so much to sicken the sensibility and make us despair of human nature. But we, ourselves, are part of the problem. We may not murder, rape or steal but what of our jealousy, our lusts, our indifference to human need, our self-satisfaction and hardness of heart?"

Outside the 13th century cathedral, in a bitter wind, most churchgoers brushed past journalists, refusing to comment on Dr Jackson's Continued on page 3, col 1



Freestone: did not go to church yesterday

Blair fights to avoid Scottish party setback over Clause 4

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

TONY BLAIR is expected to warn the Scottish Labour Party this week that it could damage the party's prospects of power if it opposes his crusade to ditch Clause 4.

The Labour leader will deliver a tough message to the Scottish conference in Inverness on Friday, shortly before it casts a vote on Clause 4 that could represent the most serious setback to Mr Blair at the hands of his party since he took over in July.

At the same time, he faces internal opposition after fresh indications at the weekend, amid Tory allegations that his policy is in a shambles, that he is determined to weaken Labour's commitments to setting up regional assemblies in England.

Although Mr Blair's allies fear that the votes will be stacked against him on Friday, he is reported to be preparing an uncompromising warning to the conference.

He believes the Scottish National Party will gleefully exploit Labour's discomfort if the Scottish party votes in one direction and the national party overturns its decision at the special Clause 4 conference on April 29. They would use it to back their claim that Scottish Labour is powerless in the face of a determined national leadership.

There is growing confidence that Mr Blair will secure the victory he needs on April 29. But he clearly faces an uphill battle on Friday, even though he could still swing the vote.

There is strong grassroots support in Scotland for Clause 4. To win, Mr Blair will have to sway some activists at the last minute, and efforts will be under way this week to persuade the GMB general union, which is at present set to abstain, to vote with Mr Blair, as it plans to do on April 29. Mr Blair will tell the

Scottish party that the argument for a change that will broaden Labour's appeal is as strong north of the border as it is in the rest of Britain.

Although Labour is the dominant party in Scotland, he believes there is great scope for improving its overall share of the vote; to hold back the threat of the SNP, he believes, it will have to prove it has a modern message.

Mr Blair and John Prescott, his deputy, will submit their ideas for a new Clause 4 to a meeting of Labour's national executive committee a week today. This follows a lengthy period of consultations in the party.

Meanwhile, Labour's gradual move away from a network of directly-elected regional assemblies was confirmed yesterday, the day after John Major launched a fierce attack on its plans for regional government.

The Prime Minister told around 300 Conservative councillors at the Tory local government conference: "Another whole tier of government would make Britain the most over-governed country in Europe. I have never known such a total shambles as Labour's plans for regional parliaments and assemblies. They are a complete mess."

Jack Straw, the Shadow Environment Secretary, will spell out Labour's plans for regional government in a policy paper in June.

But in an interview with the *Scotland on Sunday* newspaper, Mr Blair said there was no consensus for bringing in regional assemblies in England when a new Labour Government sets up a Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh.



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UN focuses on poverty

As national leaders meet in Copenhagen for a UN summit on the world's poor, *Times* writers report from some of most deprived areas and on what the meeting hopes to achieve. Page 10
Leading article, page 19



Chirac takes lead in French polls

Jacques Chirac, above, leads his Gaullist rival Edouard Balladur for the first time in opinion polls on the French presidential election. Page 13
William Rees-Mogg, page 18

Good jail guide tells inside story

By Stewart Tendler, Crime Correspondent

INMATES of British prisons will soon be able to consult a consumer's guide on the conditions, regimes and facilities they should have and the best jail to which to seek transfer.

Oxford University Press is publishing *The Prisoners' Handbook* next month. The book has been compiled by Mark Leech, a columnist for a national prisoners' newspaper who is serving seven years for armed robbery in Edinburgh prison, where he won a battle last month to have hot meals served on Saturdays.

Based on replies to questionnaires sent to prisoners and prison governors, the 430-page book will be of offer to prisoners by post from prison reform groups and may be sold in prison canteens. In hardback the proposed annual sells at £30. The paperback is £9.99.

Each entry includes the names of the main officials at

the prison, how the prison is run, including the time inmates are woken and the time they are locked up, educational facilities, chaplains and arrangements for visitors.

"It's very much a consumer's guide," Leech said. "If you are going to a new prison, you can't find anything out. You have to find someone who was there. Now there is a well-rounded source of information on each establishment."

Speaking while on pre-parole weekend leave, he said the worst prisons were probably Dartmoor, Cardiff and Preston. Strangeways in Manchester, reopened after rioting, was now a model.

The best place to serve time? Without hesitation he recommended Grendon Underwood in Buckinghamshire as "the only one that comes near to preventing fresh victims. The reconviction rate is the lowest in the country at 8 per cent."

Parson 'warned not to preach at breakaway parish'

By JOHN SHAW

A CHURCH OF ENGLAND parson who gave Holy Communion at a service yesterday for five breakaway parishes in Norfolk claimed from the pulpit that he had received threats from those who wanted him to stay away.

The Rev Robert Van der Weyer, preaching the sermon at a tiny 11th-century church at Thredon, told the packed congregation: "Do not be intimidated by threats. I have had threats. But the Church is the people of God."

The service, attended by 37 people, was the latest twist in the continuing saga of what one churchgoer called "three weddings and a sacking". The Rev Klt Chalcraft, 56, who has been married twice before, wants to marry Suzanne Hall, a widow, who is one of his parishioners. The Rt Rev Peter Nott, Bishop of Norwich, opposed it and Mr Chalcraft was dismissed.

Mr Van der Weyer, 44, said he had received a letter from the Rt Rev Stephen Sykes, the Bishop of Ely, asking him not to take the Norfolk service. But Mr Van der Weyer, who preaches at two other churches near Huntingdon, that have opted out of diocesan control, said that after taking legal advice he had ignored the bishop's plea.

"I will come here as often as they want me. These people

are wonderful. They are the roast beef of old England. They stand for all that is best in the English character and the English countryside." He said that Bishop Nott was trying to impose ministry on them and that was wrong.

Mr Chalcraft's tenure as priest-in-charge of the ten-strong Hilborough group of parishes ended last Tuesday. He went on holiday and Mrs Hall, a presenter on the BBC television programme *Nationwide* in the 1970s, also left the district. She returned for the service yesterday "to show solidarity to all the wonderful people who have supported Klt".

She and Mr Chalcraft plan to marry later this year and live in Norfolk. The dispute



Footit: the Devil has caused the friction

split the parishes equally and five decided to opt out of diocesan control, although they want to remain in the Church of England.

Churchwardens consulted Mr Van der Weyer about the next step. He was ordained in 1981 and has never been paid by the Church.

After the service, Philip Jones, a churchwarden and landscape painter who has exhibited at the Royal Academy, said: "It was wonderful. He said everything we feel."

Major Gavin Anderson, a retired officer from the Grenadier Guards, said he was not a regular churchgoer but "if this is what the new regime is about I shall be here every Sunday. It was first class."

Bishop Nott has appointed the Venerable Anthony Footit, Archdeacon of Lynn, to take charge of the Hilborough group until a permanent appointment can be made. He conducted Holy Communion earlier in the day at Foulton.

Archdeacon Footit said in his sermon he was wary of the expectations placed on him to solve the problems of the group "as if I am some sort of troubleshooter angel". He said the battle was not against the five dissenting parishes, it was against the Devil who caused such friction. The congregation said prayers for Mr Chalcraft.

Rosebery library expected to fetch £800,000

By JIM McCUE

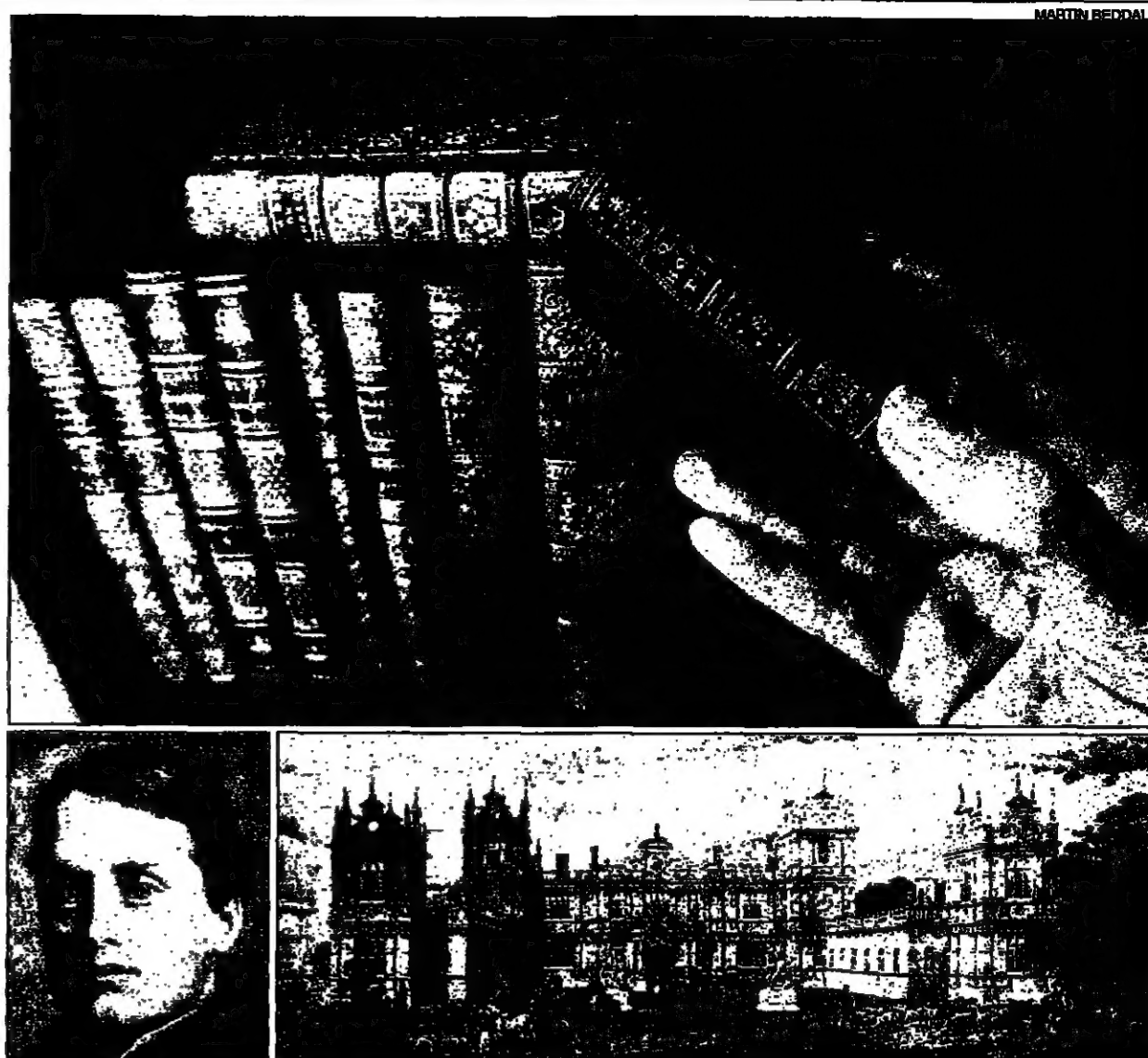
A LIBRARY formed by the 5th Earl of Rosebery, Prime Minister a hundred years ago, is expected to fetch more than £800,000 at Sotheby's on May 25. The 500 volumes comprise Rosebery's French library, which he formed for his Mentmore mansion in Buckinghamshire.

The books cover of French politics and philosophy from the 16th century to the Revolution, and include first editions of Montaigne, Molière, Pascal, Montesquieu, Marat and Madame de Staël.

The 5th Earl, born Archibald Primrose in 1847, was a reforming Liberal, and a powerful orator. He was also rector and chancellor of several universities and a biographer of Pitt, Peel, Napoleon and Cromwell.

While an undergraduate at Christ Church, Oxford, he was already in possession of a small stud, and indeed chose to abandon his degree rather than his horses. He later won the Derby three times.

He owned several of Stubbs' finest equine portraits. Since his death in 1929, his legacy has been good business for Sotheby's, which sold his sporting books and Napoleonic in



Rosebery's French library, from Mentmore, includes a miniature volume owned by Madame de Pompadour

1933, and the contents of Mentmore, excepting the library, in 1977.

The highlights this time will include books associated with the last three generations of French royalty: volumes once owned by mis-

treasures of Louis XIV and Louis XV, and Louis XVI's manuscript account book of chateaux, from 1785 to 1789.

The most expensive item in the sale will probably be a complete set of Merian and Zeiller's *Topographia* (1642-

50), a 12-volume rarity comprising views of Germany, Austria and Switzerland, which could fetch £120,000.

A copy of the 1481 edition of Dante's *Divine Comedy*, the oldest book in the sale, is expected to fetch £10-15,000. Produced only nine years after the poem was first printed, this edition is famous for a series of engravings from Botticelli drawings thought to have been commissioned by Lorenzo de' Medici.

Spirit of Trollope stalks Lincoln

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE conflicts that have thrown Lincoln Cathedral close into turmoil exceed even those dreamt up by Trollope. Many church insiders believe, however, that some such bloodletting was inevitable given the antiquated rules and traditions by which cathedrals are managed. These rules make some of the older establishments almost ungovernable when personalities get in the way of principles.

When Judge Goodman, Chancellor of Lincoln diocese, comes to hear the case, it will be more than the future of the dean, Dr Brandon Jackson,

that is at stake. The dispute over the exhibition of the cathedral's Magna Carta in Australia in 1988, which cost it £50,000, was the main debacle which prompted the establishment of a commission to examine the future of England's 42 cathedrals.

The commission, chaired by Lady Howe, recommended in its report last autumn the ending of the clergy freehold in cathedrals that guarantees a job until retirement. The report made it clear that there should be no repeat of events such as those at Lincoln.

The latest issues at Lincoln concern more than the private conduct of the dean, but again throw into the spotlight the question of ecclesiastical authority. Because of the freehold, it is almost impossible to sack a clergyman without costly litigation. The last "conduct unbecoming" case in the church was that of the Rev Tom Tyler in the Chichester diocese. His case, which included an unsuccessful appeal after he was found guilty of adultery with a parishioner's wife, cost the Church more than £350,000.

At Lincoln, as at every cathedral, the bishop is almost powerless to discipline or dismiss the incumbent clergy — and must knock on the cathedral door before he can enter for his own consecration.

Also at Lincoln, as at many of the older cathedrals, the dean himself has little authority over the residentiary canons, and cannot impose a decision on his chapter if they vote against it. When a personal clash occurs, only deadlock can result.

Under the church law invoked in this case, the bishop does have power to suspend the dean, but has chosen not to. Instead, Dr Jackson, who was appointed the year of the Magna Carta exhibition and then called in the fraud squad, has voluntarily taken leave of absence until the case is resolved.

Dean acts

Continued from page 1 alleged indiscretion. One woman said she had been shattered by the news. "I know the man, and I think the whole business is quite ridiculous."

About 200 people were in the cathedral to hear the dean's statement. They were of all ages, mostly local people but including a scattering of tourists.

At her home, a small terraced house close to the city centre, Miss Freestone, 31, said yesterday that she could not add much to her story. "Until I get instructions from my solicitor, I can't really say anything more."

She had not attended church services yesterday and imagined that her allegations would affect her relations with the cathedral for the foreseeable future, but she had no intention of leaving Lincoln and would continue her employment with an agency doing care work.

On Saturday, she said that she had had a "brief" affair with Dr Jackson in 1993. A regular member of the cathedral congregation, she had applied for the paid job as a verger on the advice of the Dean who was a member of the panel that appointed her to the post.

Bar calls for tough legal aid sanctions

By FRANCES GIBBS, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

DRACONIAN jail sentences of up to seven years, coupled with random spot checks on legal aid applications, are called for today by the Bar to curb legal aid fraud.

In the wake of public controversy over large sums of legal aid going to people alleged not to warrant it, the Bar says there must be "tough sanctions" on those who abuse the system.

The Bar, responding to proposals from the Lord Chancellor to tackle the problem of "legal aid for the apparently rich", urges an increase from three months to seven years in the maximum jail sentence for offences under section 39 of the Legal Aid Act 1988.

It also calls for the setting up of a Legal Aid Investigation Unit to carry out random spot checks on applicants and deal with any cases which trial judges might decide to hand over for investigation. But the Bar, and the Society of Labour Lawyers in a separate paper to be published this week, also express concern that the Government proposals might damage people's access to the courts in civil cases.

The society, chaired by James Goudie, QC, a leading public law barrister, attacks Government proposals as "misleading and misguided", and failing to tackle the problem of current abuses.

"The debate has confused civil and criminal proceedings," the Labour paper says. "It is fundamentally unfair to reduce the eligibility of those with legitimate rights to pursue, in response to concerns about very few criminal defendants." The Labour lawyers say that under the Lord Chancellor's proposals published in a Green paper before Christmas, many applicants for civil legal aid could effectively be disqualified.



How Yehudi Menuhin keeps time.

If all he did was play the violin, that would surely be enough. However, the enthusiasms of Lord Menuhin extend much further.

He has used the opportunities that travelling the world has given him, not just to delight countless audiences with his playing but also to use music as a medium for promoting his own humanitarian beliefs.

For his manifold achievements, Lord Menuhin has received honours from all around the globe. Yet his ceaseless energy

and many and varied enthusiasms mean that more and more demands are placed upon his time.

"My time is always very short. Far too short."

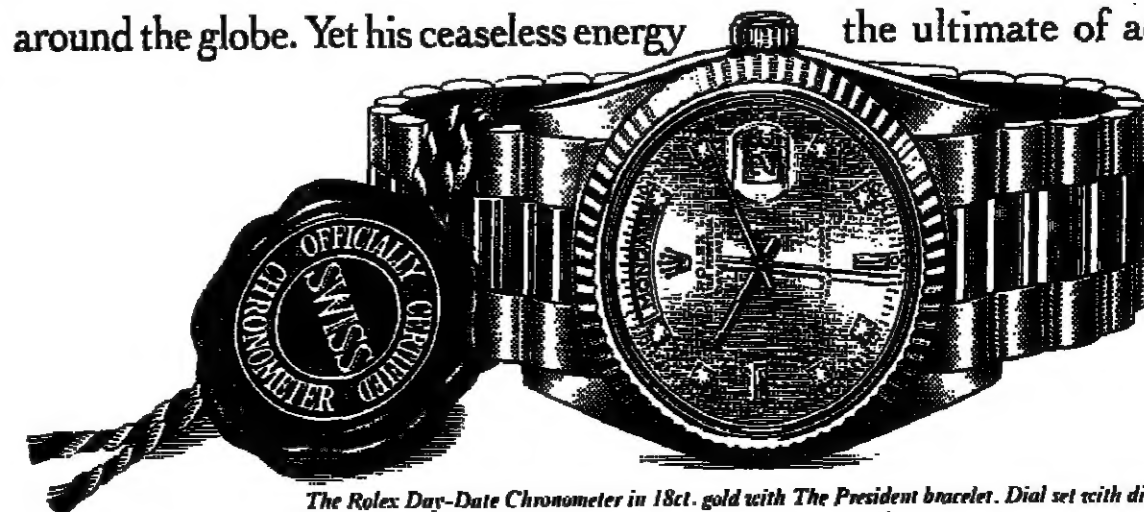
He spreads his hands. "I'd like to spend more time with the school. More time at home. More time in the theatre."

"But in the meantime I love playing the violin. I love conducting..."

How Lord Menuhin chooses to allocate his precious time in a life committed to constant globe-trotting is clearly a matter of some concern for him. On the other hand, how he chooses to keep time is a matter of considerable satisfaction to us.

Of the Rolex Day-Date Chronometer that accompanies him on his travels he says: "It is a beautiful article. It represents the ultimate in integrity of workmanship."

Such words surely represent the ultimate of accolades. ROLEX of Geneva



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Bank managers to attempt student life on £23 a week

By PAUL WILKINSON

TWO bank managers are to swap roles with two undergraduates for a week to experience life on a student grant of £23.10 a week.

While Lance Greenwood and Kevin Macadam attend lectures on fluid dynamics and differential topology and dine on baked beans and jacket potatoes, Lindsey Moses and Rachael Brigham will be dealing with high finance for Barclays and the Midland banks respectively.

The switch is the idea of Mark Moody, president of the Students' Union at Hull University, as part of his campaign to highlight the poor level of

financial aid available to undergraduates. When students leave university most expect to be about £2,500 in debt.

He said: "Last term we got four university staff to live on a student grant for a week. Three out of the four couldn't survive."

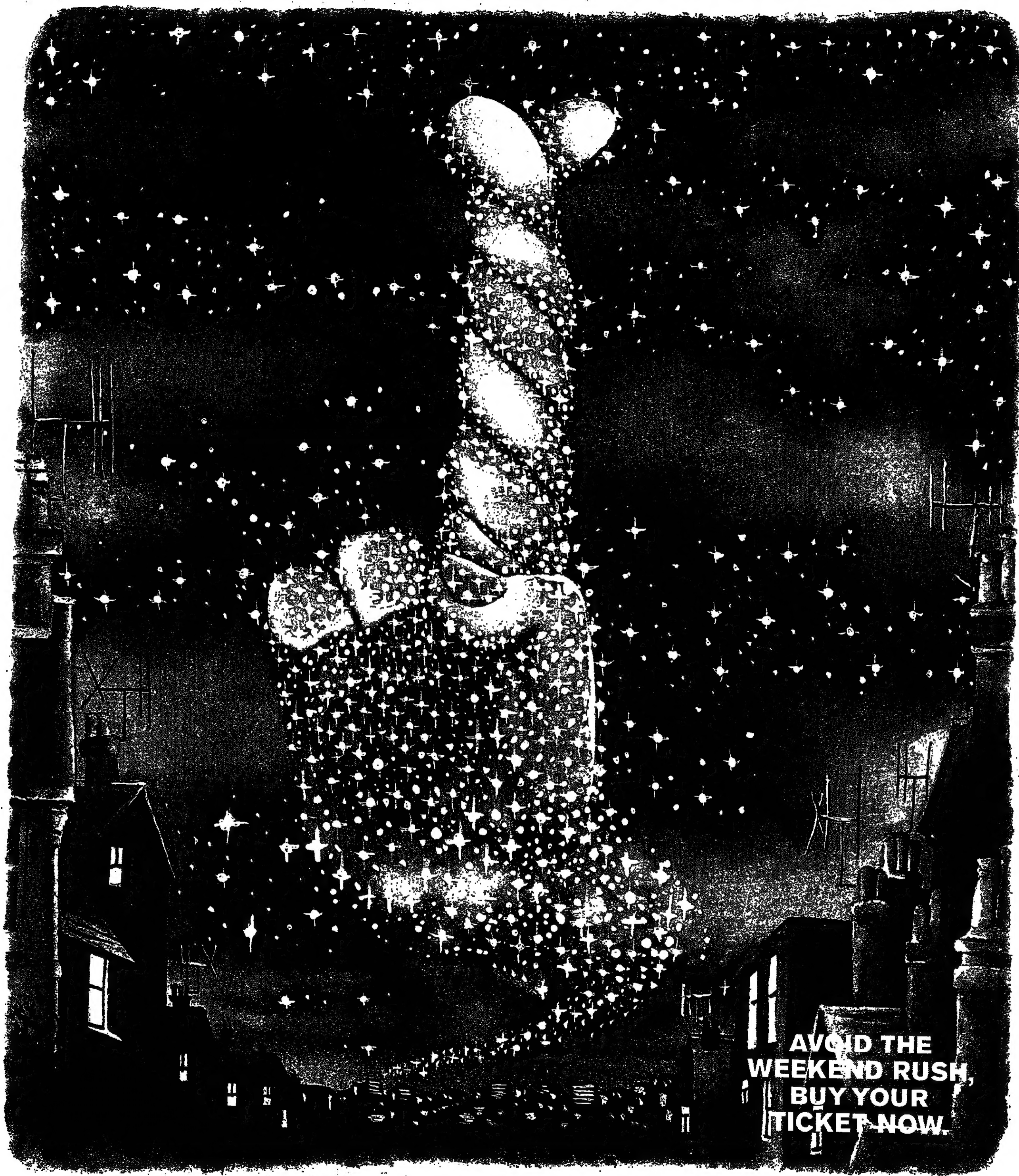
Both managers have experience of working with students as their branches serve the university campus, but neither is a graduate. Mr Greenwood, 38, a student adviser with the Midland, went into banking with six O levels, and Mr Macadam, 28, joined Barclays from a

Youth Training Scheme with five O levels. He is married with his first child due any day. Both are swapping suburban homes for a university accommodation block.

As Mr Macadam prepared for a tour of Hull's cheapest supermarkets yesterday he said: "We've got a full programme of activities from lectures to helping out in the community, so I don't think it will be a 'doss'. I'll be surprised if either of us manages to survive on the £23."

The two students will be paid by the banks for their week's work, earning up to six times their weekly grants.

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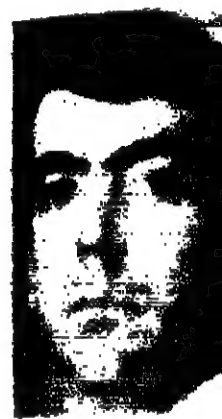


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Broker once

Authorities
that collapse



Digital



مركزنا الأول

Broker once paid £2m perk can earn £3.50 a day in jail

FROM DOMINIC KENNEDY
IN FRANKFURT

NICK LEESON is being held in a suburban remand prison while he fights extradition from Germany to Singapore. A guard at the 300-inmate jail in Frankfurt says there was a look of desperation on the banker's face as the door closed on his 12th by 8ft cell on Friday.

If he behaves well, he will be eligible for a prison job as a cleaner or cook earning eight marks (£3.50) a day. Mr Leeson, 28, only meets other prisoners during brief morning exercise in the courtyard.

The jail, Justizvollzugsanstalt number 2 in the comfortable suburb of Höchst, has six other Britons awaiting trial. His day begins

PRISON

before first light with a 5.45am alarm call.

Mr Leeson has to wash using the basin in his cell and is only entitled to go for a shower once a week. He has his own flush lavatory. Most of the remand prisoners are young offenders but the top floor of the three-storey prison is used as an overspill for adults, mostly accused of white-collar crime. None is a hardened criminal.

He can open his window to allow in the fresh air, which was particularly biting in a grey Frankfurt yesterday. Through the metal bars and a mesh grille, he can observe the world beyond the 25ft walls. At

7am Mr Leeson is served a breakfast of coffee, bread, jam, margarine and yoghurt, which he eats alone. He can then spend most of his time reading and writing at his desk.

The prison library includes a selection of English language books to dip into when he completes the Tom Clancy thriller that he was carrying both when apprehended at Frankfurt Airport and on route from police custody to his remand hearing on Friday. English and German newspapers are also delivered to the jail.

Prisoners are taken in shifts for brief exercise in the prison yard. Lunch at noon is a hot main meal of meat or fish, with no choices. Veal and goulash have recently been

served. Mr Leeson can listen on a headset to radio piped into the cells, choosing either the American Forces Network, broadcast in English, or a German-speaking station. Tea at 4.30pm is a snack of bread with cheese and cold meats.

Yesterday, Roman Catholic mass and a Protestant service were held in the prison. These are both popular with inmates, partly because they offer one of the few opportunities to meet other people and to exchange magazines and newspapers. Many of the prisoners are Turks or Arabs, who are able to attend regular Muslim worship.

After four weeks of good behaviour, new inmates are entitled to certain privileges. They can swap their blue prison uniforms for their

civilian clothes. Radios and televisions are allowed in their rooms after being dismantled and checked for hidden weapons.

Prisoners have a chance to congregate in the television room and to play sport in the afternoon, when a female PE instructor coaches handball and basketball on a grass pitch behind the prison. Balls yesterday dotted the razor wire topping the prison walls where they had been accidentally impaled.

Another privilege is to have a prison job, which can earn small amounts of pocket money. Prisoners do all the cleaning and cooking for the jail and Mr Leeson, whose bonus for one year as a banker was reported to be £2 million, could be reduced to making £3.50 a day. The

prison has its own internal newspaper which inmates help to write. They can also take classes in skills, including computing. There have been several suicide attempts so staff are aware of the dangers of leaving inmates alone for long without checking them. Lights go out at 10pm.

Visitors are usually allowed on Wednesdays and Thursdays although lawyers can see their clients at other times and Mr Leeson's lawyer, Eberhard Kempf, is to visit him today. Mr Leeson has an opportunity to challenge his remand in provisional extradition custody at the regional court in Frankfurt this week.

Battle for Barings, page 1

Top staff demand payment of bonus

By IAN MURRAY

CHARITIES with accounts frozen at Barings reacted angrily last night to news that senior staff were insisting on being paid bonuses totalling £105 million before accepting any deal to rescue the bank.

"It is completely outrageous," said Martina Crowley, chief executive of Aspire, which helps people paralysed with spinal injuries. "At the very least I would think they would have a moral duty to customers like us."

The people we deal with and have to buy wheelchairs and equipment for do not have fat bonuses and pay cheques to rely on. If it turns out that

RESCUE DEAL

Barings have known about this for the past three years, I really don't know how they can sleep at night."

Among those said to have qualified for a big cash payout is Nick Leeson, the Singapore-based dealer at the centre of the collapse, who boasted to colleagues last month that he was promised £1 million because of his substantial contribution to the bank's profits. The bonuses were earned last year when the staff involved helped the bank to make record profits.

Barings was one of the few investment banks planning to pay bonuses for 1994, when many of its rivals had a bad year. The bonus scheme was regarded as an important incentive by the bank and helped it to recruit and motivate some of the best merchant bankers.

Anyone buying the bank may therefore be forced to honour these bonuses in order to stop the best staff being headhunted by rival financial institutions. The bank's chief asset is its team of experts.

The main beneficiaries are understood to be senior directors and top market traders. The bonus money they earned has already been set aside and is frozen with the bank's other assets.

In 1993 Peter Baring, the bank's chairman, was paid a profit share of £1 million in addition to his salary of £212,000 and a pensions contribution of £30,000.

Authorities warned bank that collapse was ahead

FROM NEIL BENNETT
IN SINGAPORE

ATTACKS on Barings's management were stepped up yesterday when Goh Cheok Tong, the Prime Minister of Singapore, blamed the bank's failure on "a lack of internal control". He said: "Our authorities knew what was coming and forewarned the people involved."

The criticism followed the startling disclosure that Simex, the Singapore International Monetary Exchange, had summoned Anthony Hawes, Barings's group treasurer, to Singapore on February 8 to warn him of the sudden increase in the bank's trading activity. But Mr Hawes reassured Simex that Barings knew about the trading and that funds would be sent from London to cover it. "Simex became concerned about Barings's volume of trades in the first week of January," Kasisvannatham Shanmugan, a legal adviser to Simex, said.

Price Waterhouse, the accountancy firm appointed last week by the Singapore courts to take charge of Barings Derivatives business, disclosed on Saturday that Barings's head office in London had injected £600 million into its Singapore Derivatives business in January

SINGAPORE

and February to support its trading positions. "The bank said it was aware of Barings's financial commitments and that credit facilities would be arriving to meet them," Mr Shanmugan said.

The Singapore authorities have also disclosed evidence that a senior manager of the bank warned the London office almost three years ago about the dangers of giving Mr Leeson too much power on Simex. The warning came in a fax dated March 25, 1992, from James Bax, the head of Barings's operations in Singapore, to Andrew Fraser, the head of equities at Barings in London. "My concern is that



Bax sent warning fax in March 1992

we are once again in danger of setting up a structure that will prove disastrous and with which we will succeed in losing either a lot of money or client good will or probably both," it reads.

Mr Bax was concerned that Mr Leeson, a former settlements clerk, was being put in charge of all aspects of running the company's business on Simex, including dealing and settlement. He objected to him being considered in London as "head of our Simex operations". He recommended that Mr Leeson be limited to just the "operations side" of the business but his advice appears to have been overruled in London.

Mr Bax concludes by threatening that unless Mr Leeson's role was limited, his own position as a senior manager "is inappropriate and needs review". This is thought to be why Mr Leeson reported directly to London.

Mr Bax, who has been interviewed by the Singapore police and has had his passport confiscated, refused to comment at his home yesterday. Meanwhile, Price Waterhouse has also suggested that some of Barings's records in Singapore may be missing. Vijaya Rajah, Price Water-

house's legal adviser, admitted that the papers are "in a state of disarray".

Nevertheless, they are being examined by officials from Singapore's Commercial Affairs Department, who are assembling a formal case to extradite Mr Leeson from Germany on fraud and forgery charges.

At the weekend Price Waterhouse disclosed that Mr Leeson had ordered his staff to reclassify entries in Barings's trading records. This is believed to have made the loss-making derivatives contracts more difficult to interpret. Two of his staff have been interviewed and released by the Singaporean authorities.

Price Waterhouse and Simex emphasised at the weekend that none of the documents they have produced implicates or clears anyone in the affair. So far none of the Barings managers in London has said why the bank apparently supported Mr Leeson's trading activities.

The affair is now being investigated by the Serious Fraud Office and the Bank of England, while Labour MPs are calling for an independent inquiry into the collapse. Price Waterhouse said that it plans to interview senior Barings managers in London to discover precisely what happened at the bank.



Ian Hedges tests his electric wheelchair encouraged by nurse Amanda Pearson

Grants hit by frozen assets

A PARTIALLY paralysed man with spinal injuries, who unwittingly became a victim of the Barings bank failure, was saved from disappointment on his 25th birthday yesterday by British Telecom (Helen Johnstone writes).

Aspire, a spinal injury charity, based at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital in north London, was due to supply Ian Hedges, from Basildon, Essex, with a

£3,000 electric wheelchair, but its assets in the bank were frozen. The chair was instead paid for by BT's community affairs programme.

Gay Rose, Aspire's administrator, said money in two accounts with Barings containing the bulk of the charity's £1.2 million assets was "possibly lost for ever". Many charities are likely to

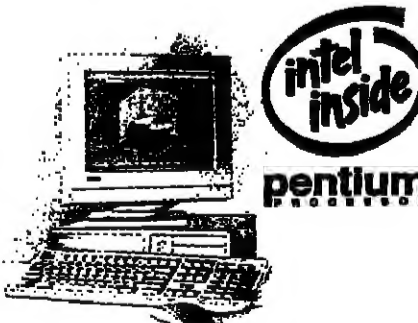
lose grants from the Baring Foundation, the trust that owns all the stricken bank's non-voting shares and which gave away £13.7 million last year. The bank's charitable arm has suspended its grant-giving operation, although a spokesman said existing pledges would be honoured. Those charities whose assets have been frozen may get 75 per cent of their deposits back, but only up to a maximum of £15,000.

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'Natural history is as important to our heritage as paintings, machinery or anything else'

Museums seek new rules to halt export of fossils

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

AS FOSSILS become a multi-million-pound business, Britain is at risk of losing valuable specimens to wealthy museums abroad because the Government has failed to give them the same protection as works of art.

The Heritage Department admitted last week that it was no closer to bringing fossils within the law covering the export of works of art, despite a pledge by Iain Sproat, a Heritage Minister, a year ago.

Consultations were going on but it was "not an easy problem", a spokesman said.

Today the finest fossils could match the prices of Impressionist paintings. "Tyranosaurus rex?" says Philip Keith of Bonhams, the London salerooms. "I would think you'd be talking about \$10 million. The skull alone would be worth \$5 million." For the classic British dinosaur, *Iguanodon*, he quotes a possible £500,000.

For years museum curators have been asking for protection for valuable fossils. Mark Taylor, Director of the Museums Association, has said that

excluding fossils and other items of natural history is absurd: "They are as important to this country's heritage as paintings, machinery or anything else."

The huge increase in fossil values has created opportunities for shady dealers. Last April thieves cut out a 120-million-year-old dinosaur footprint from a bed of sandstone on Natural Trust land on the Isle of Wight. Barry Field, the island's Tory MP, said this was an example of the "systematic plundering of

fossil sites". Fossils have also disappeared from Scotland, North Yorkshire, the Isle of Skye and the Welsh coast. Many are of limited scientific or monetary value, though removing them from private land is a crime as they belong to the landowner.

Six years ago, the world's oldest fossil reptile, nicknamed Lizzie and discovered in a Scottish quarry, was saved only through the goodwill of a German museum which was to buy it for £170,000 from its finder.

Stan Wood had permission to hunt from the local council, owners of the quarry in East Kirkcubbin, Lothian, where he discovered Lizzie. It was only when he applied for export permission that it was realised that he need not have bothered, as the legislation did not cover fossils or any natural history specimens. The Stuttgart museum pulled out of the deal, enabling the Royal Museum of Scotland to match the price.

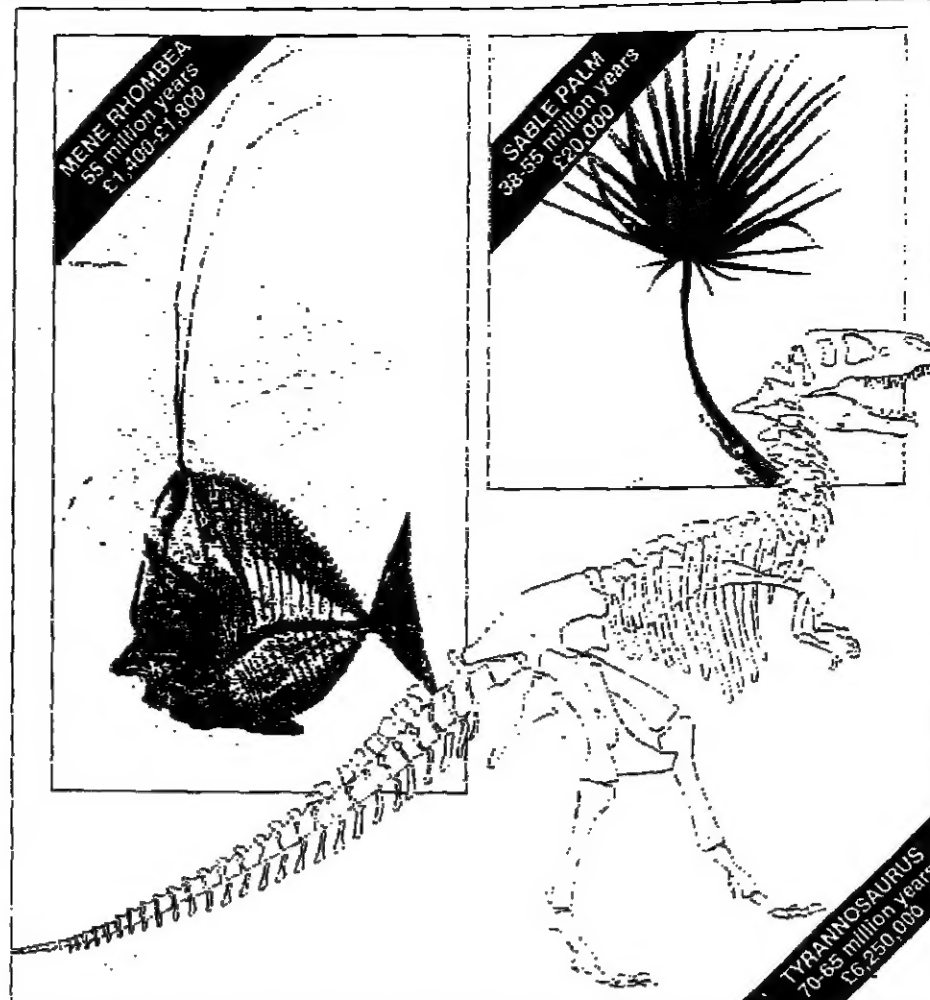
Dr Cocks says that any controls would have to distinguish between ordinary specimens and those as valuable as

Lizzie. "Technically speaking a piece of coal is a fossil," he says, "so the legislation would have to set a monetary value, £10,000, £15,000 or £20,000, before a fossil qualified."

Unlike a work of art, he points out, most fossils are not unique. Museums who already have many examples of a particular fossil would have little interest in acquiring more. But Dr Cocks is grateful to the owners of a claypit in Dorling, Surrey, who gave the museum a valuable fossil of a carnivorous dinosaur, *Baryonyx walkeri*. He declines to put a value on this fossil, but points out that it took ten years of work at the museum to prepare and mount it.

"Much of the value of a specimen like this comes from the extra work of mounting it," he says. "It's like the difference between a rough-cut diamond and the final jewel."

Bonhams now holds biannual sales of fossils with items fetching from £200 to £30,000. On April 20 Mr Keith will be selling a private Italian collection of fossils from the Monte Bolca formation, near Verona. "It's a big collection, from a



classic Italian site," he says. "The owner has decided to switch from fossils to Greek and Roman antiquities."

Both Dr Cocks and Mr Keith defend the collecting of

fossils, many of which are found on the foreshore beneath crumbling cliffs, on land owned by nobody. "I'm not complacent about the situation," says Dr Cocks. "There have been unfortunate incidents where fossils have been taken without permission by foreign dealers. But far more are destroyed every year by the sea."

Shepherd delegates action on troubled schools

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE Education Secretary has had to pass on responsibility for settling the fate of two schools in her constituency that may be taken over by government "hit squads".

Abbey Farm Middle School and Hockwold Primary School, in Gillian Shepherd's South West Norfolk constituency, are among 32 schools found by inspectors to be failing their pupils. They have to convince ministers that their action plans will raise standards sufficiently to avoid becoming the first school handed over to an Education Association.

Mrs Shepherd, who has the formal power to establish an association, bringing in experienced head teachers and businessmen to give a school a fresh start, has approved 17 action plans. But she disclosed last week that tougher action was being considered in a small number of schools.

The two Norfolk schools — one in and the other near Thetford — will have their action plans considered by Eric Forth, a junior Education Minister, so that there is no suggestion of a clash of interests for Mrs Shepherd. The Education Secretary takes a close interest in schools in her constituency, and has both chaired the county education authority and worked for it.

Unusually, Abbey Farm called in the inspectors itself after the appointment of a new head teacher. The subsequent report found that standards were poor in almost all subjects, pupils showed a lack of respect for adults and there were incidents of bullying.

Dominic Cragoe, the head teacher, whose leadership was praised by the inspection team, said: "It was clear when I arrived a year ago that there were things that needed to be done that had been left for a long time. A full inspection was the only answer, and it has been painful but worth it."

Abbey Farm had been the subject of a critical report in 1991, and numbers had dropped substantially, partly as a result of families moving off the local council estate. But Mr Cragoe said recruitment was recovering.

The school's action plan, scrutinised by civil servants last week, included a review of teaching, measures to improve behaviour, and a commitment by the authority to provide experienced temporary teachers to cover for absences. The county had already seconded a deputy head teacher from another middle school to help implement the plan.

Education, page 37

The times a changin' on CD-Rom

By A STAFF REPORTER

BOB DYLAN'S 35-year career is to be depicted on an interactive CD-Rom — a computer program that includes sound and film — due out next week.

The 3D disk, costing nearly £50, features hours of songs, film footage, video montage, interviews and a compendium of lyrics from Dylan's 41 albums, tracing his story from the backwaters of Minnesota.

Dylan's record label, Columbia, believes the disk will attract a new generation, as well as exciting existing fans. It features an unreleased version of *House of the Rising Sun*, a rare performance of *Blowin' in the Wind* and drawings not seen before.

Leading architect blames Tories for London's decay

By TIM JONES

THE architect Sir Richard Rogers blames government policies for causing Londoners to lose faith in their city as a place where they can lead a healthy, secure and affordable life.

Delivering the Reith Lecture on BBC Radio 4 last night, Sir Richard said the abolition of Greater London Council by the Government was "a purely vindictive and politically motivated action" that had left London as the only European capital without an elected government authority.

"Londoners have no direct say in their city's affairs — no foil to counter the search for profit in the City," Sir Richard

said. "And to this dire situation a new issue has been added. In environmental terms London is one of the dirtiest and least ecologically sustainable cities in Europe. With no elected representation for London, it is hard to see how citizens can safeguard the destiny of this city."

Sir Richard said that although transport lay at the heart of any strategy for making cities sustainable, London had no concerted transport policy. The capital's transport, he said, was dominated by the use of private cars, which was polluting the metropolis and undermining its communities. He called for

road pricing to deter the use of cars, far more traffic-free zones, more bridges across the Thames and a far greater use of the river as a vital artery. It was time to stop the ever outward, antisocial growth of London.

He blamed government housing policies for undermining communities and said London had to break the bleak isolation of the hundreds of thousands of poor trapped within decaying housing estates. "The market favours out-of-town sites where land is cheap and developments are for single-function activities but specifically not for mixed neighbourhoods."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boy found buried in sand

A missing boy was found dead by his father yards from his home yesterday. Stephen Playfoot, 12, had been digging in a sandy area near his home at Crockenhill, Kent, when it collapsed and partially buried him.

Stephen went missing on Saturday afternoon after saying that he was going off to play. His father organised a group of family and friends to look for him, and found his body half-buried in a marsh area yesterday. It seemed he had been digging a tunnel. Police believe that he may have died from exposure, trapped in the quicksand during the night. A post-mortem examination will be carried out today.

Girl attacked

A girl of ten was sexually assaulted after she was abducted from a street as she played with two friends at Iffeld near Crawley, West Sussex. The man, thought to be in his 30s, drove to nearby woods and attacked her. He then dropped her in Crawley.

Lottery bonus

The National Lottery jackpot will be at least £12 million next weekend, the organisers said yesterday. The top prize of £8 million will be boosted by a £4 million "spring bonus". One ticket-holder won the weekend jackpot of £8,807,149.

Winning numbers, page 22

Softly, softly

Hampshire Police are starting a 30-month trial of an electric-powered vehicle which they say could be useful in approaching suspected criminals quietly.

Gas explosion

Raymond Seal, 36, a DIY enthusiast, died after a damaged gas pipe caused an explosion at his home in Chorleywood, Hertfordshire. Peter Sutton, 53, was seriously injured.

Funfair injuries

A funfair ride at the end of the Palace Pier in Brighton broke down and collapsed, injuring 12 people at the weekend. Safety inspectors were checking it yesterday.

Ale and farewell

Arundel Brewery, Sussex, has named an ale Gilks Bitter in honour of Police Constable Tony Gilks, 51, who is retiring after 30 years as a village policeman.

Shock survivor

Paul Davies, 25, survived an 11,000-volt electric shock after his car skidded on ice in Great Shefford, Berkshire, hit a telegraph pole and brought down an overhead power cable.

Tale in trust

Details of David Halliwell's work as butler at Nostell Priory, West Yorkshire, are to be put in a time capsule as part of the National Trust's centenary celebrations.

Warm ponds bring leap in green frogs

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

A SPECIES of imported frog which, for more than a century, has remained confined to a handful of ornamental ponds, has begun to colonise streams and rivers in southeast England.

The spread of the edible or green frog, a continental species, is being linked by scientists to a rise in pond temperatures in the region.

Studies of two ponds by biologists at Sussex University have found that temperatures have climbed markedly since the 1970s, shifting the breeding patterns of toads, newts and some frogs.

Dr Trevor Beebee of the university's school of biological sciences said: "Temperatures before the breeding period have increased steadily over the past 17 years. At one site the rise is 0.1C a year and at the other it is 0.2C."

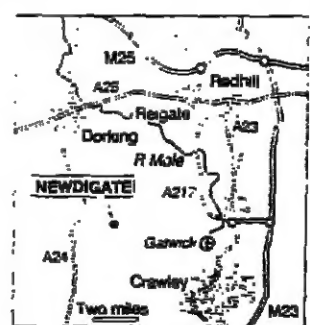
Dr Beebee said the rises were not a flash-in-the-pan. "It is clearly important to distinguish between the effects of an occasional hot summer and mild winter. What we are seeing here are relatively long-term trends."

The studies show that the rare natterjack is breeding two weeks earlier and

that Britain's three new species are now breeding up to seven weeks earlier than nearly two decades ago.

"Newts, instead of arriving in early spring, are now arriving at the pond before Christmas," Dr Beebee said. Edible frogs, which since being released here have previously found Britain too chilly to thrive, are now spawning in mid-May. They used to spawn in June.

The spread of the creatures has been monitored in Kent, Sussex and Surrey. Julia Wycheley, recorder of amphibians and reptiles at the trust, said that the focus of the expansion was Newdigate, south of Dorking, where the continental frogs were kept by nurseriesmen.



Education, page 37



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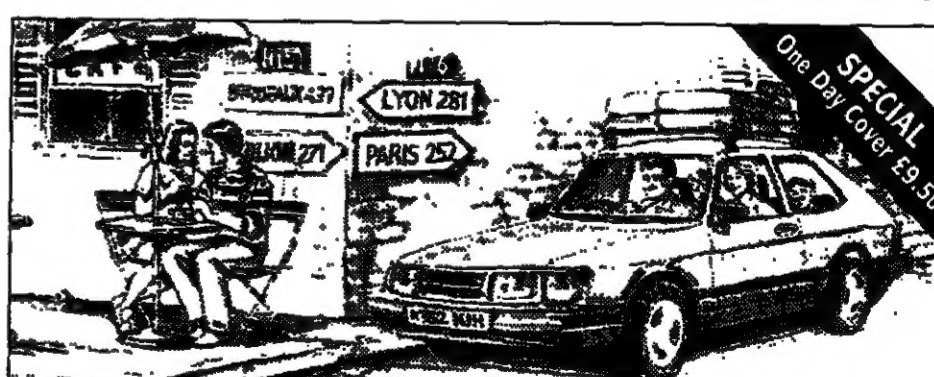
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Air inquiries start over standards of maintenance work

TWO investigations into the maintenance of Britain's commercial airline fleet have been started by the Department of Transport and the Civil Aviation Authority amid concern over hangar safety standards.

Technical officials from all British airlines are being called to a meeting with the CAA at Gatwick later this month to discuss ways of preventing fatal mistakes by hard-pressed maintenance mechanics.

At the same time, inspectors from the Department of Transport's air accident investigation branch are calling for details of all mistakes made by maintenance engineers during the past five years, after a near disaster last month when a British Midland Boeing 737 came within minutes of running out of oil in both engines.

Only the swift action of the pilot in throttling back to reduce the pressure prevented all the engine oil leaking out. He managed to make an emergency landing at Luton.

The incident has so concerned the CAA that it is considering prosecuting the three maintenance engineers who, it is believed, inadvertently left off covers over inspection ports.

It was the third serious incident involving faulty maintenance in the past five years. In 1990 the pilot of a British Airways BAC 1-11 jet was sucked out of the cockpit after maintenance men had used the wrong bolts when replacing the main window. Only the swift action of other members of the crew in hanging on to his legs saved him. The co-pilot made an emergency landing. Earlier

The third serious potentially fatal mistake in five years has spurred air safety officials into action, Harvey Elliott writes

this year the air accident investigation branch at Farnborough reported that the pilot of an Excalibur Airbus A320 with 185 holidaymakers on board found he was unable to turn left after take-off from Gatwick because British Airways engineers had forgotten to reconnect control surfaces after overnight maintenance.

Many experts are questioning whether maintenance engineers are under so much pressure to get aircraft back into the air that they are making potentially disastrous mistakes.

"The trouble is that although the flight deck is using the latest techniques, the maintenance is being carried out in almost 1950s style," one senior official said.

"We must look at the whole area of maintenance and find out what can be done to improve standards, eliminate bad procedures, introduce better high technology checks throughout the whole process and study the way the operating departments may try to put pressure on engineers to get aircraft back in service quickly."

In their report into the Excalibur incident, air accident investigators were critical of the way engineers had to work overnight when their "body-clock" was likely to be disrupted and of the pressures they could be under to complete a job on time. "There is a subtle but real pressure to deliver in the shortest possible

time," they said. "There is a tendency to estimate unrealistically short times for the aircraft to be out of service to avoid flight cancellations and the engineering team may then have to renegotiate the return to service time just to accommodate the normal time to complete the work."

The concern has already been expressed with equal force in the United States, where the Federal Aviation Administration has ordered regular checks on airline operators to ensure that they are not taking any short cuts in safety procedures or maintenance work.

Now the CAA and the AAIB are determined to ensure that they maintain safety, even if it occasionally means late departures. As one safety expert said last night: "If anyone thinks that safety is costly, try having an accident."



A worldwide search has been started to trace the descendants of a Victorian landowner who could stand to inherit this disused Welsh chapel worth up to £100,000 (Tim Jones writes). Rees Nicholas leased the land for a church to be built in the tiny village of Treccastell, Powys, in 1849 for 999 years. He

Joyful welcome awaits chapel owner's family

stipulated that it would revert to his family if people stopped using it as a place of worship. In 1929 they were still arriving by horsepower.

above, but two years ago the seven families who used to attend the Soar Congregational Church could not meet rising repair bills and moved

to another chapel. Now, Howard Llewellyn, who practises in Brecon, is asking for descendants to come forward within a month, otherwise the church may be sold to the highest bidder. The building has views over unspoilt countryside on the edge of the Brecon Beacons National Park.

Hospitals in fight to contain bacterium

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

HOSPITALS in the South East are taking emergency measures to control a drug-resistant bacterium that attacks the sick and elderly.

At Southend Hospital in Essex, nurses are being trained in barrier nursing approaches, treating patients in isolation, after about 30 patients contracted methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus, known as MRSA. The bacterium is transferred through open wounds and leads to fever-like symptoms. It can cause pneumonia and septicemia, with the elderly particularly vulnerable.

Last year, at least 60 people died in West Midlands hospitals over a three-month period after contracting the bacterium. Ros Morris, a spokeswoman for Southend Hospital, confirmed that the current strain of MRSA was affecting about 130 hospitals across the country but said it was not in itself likely to cause death.

"There is an epidemic at the moment, particularly in the southeast area. The problem is that MRSA is resistant to antibiotics, and this particular strain is very tenacious and stubborn."



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Benign tumours of a rare design

Dr Thomas Stuttford

Although he is in his mid-sixties, David Hicks' career as an international designer continues as fruitfully as ever. Like Pugin, Mr Hicks will design everything, from the plans of the house and garden, to its furniture, its cutlery and even the tiara for the woman of the house.

People who have met Mr Hicks recently have expressed concern about the soft tumours that have been growing in his neck, throat and shoulders and which are now spreading to his face in front of his ears. Their anxiety is misplaced, for Mr Hicks is suffering from Madelung's disease, a benign condition so rare that if ever his design business failed he could make a reasonable income parading himself as a subject for medical exams.

In Madelung's disease there is a concentration of lipomata - fatty tumours - around the head and neck. It is the number of the tumours and their position that makes Madelung's disease rare, for scattered, circumscribed lipomata are among the most common of all tumours, but are usually found on the shoulders, back and abdomen.

Otto Madelung, after whom the disease is named, was a Strasbourg surgeon who died in 1926. He was of the opinion, almost certainly mistakenly, that there was an association between the disease and beer drinking, and that it had become progressively less common in the 20th century because beer wasn't what it used to be. Mr Hicks has never been a heavy beer drinker.

The commonly found lipo-

ma appears as a circumscribed collection of fat beneath the skin; it is painless and has a definite edge but when kneaded feels fluid. Lipomata contain little fibrous tissue, but if they do they are much firmer and are referred to as fibro-lipomata. The skin overlying the tumour is occasionally heavily veined; these are called naevus-lipomata. One sight where lipomata can be a nuisance is the ankles: middle-aged women occasionally develop fatty tumours either side of their ankle bones, which without surgery makes shoe-buying a problem. Lipomata can grow in the intestines and are an infrequent cause of benign tumours of the colon.

As lipomata are only very rarely pre-malignant, no treatment is recommended other than for cosmetic reasons.

When sarcomatous change does occur it is usually in a lipoma on the thighs. A few years ago, having some vague recollection of being taught this and being surprised that the distinguished chairman of a large company was happy to accept other advice and keep a huge and unsightly lipoma on his bottom. I begged him into having it removed.

To all of our amazements it was malignant and the patient needed extensive surgery. He was everlastingly grateful and always wrongly dismissed as false modesty my protestations that my advice was more determined by aesthetic considerations than from great knowledge of surgical pathology.



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We can build a moral order

The story of the late 20th century is one of the displacement of the community by the State and hence of the replacement of morality by politics. That is why our moral agenda has changed. Our concerns — with inequality and injustice, war and famine and ecology — go deep. But these are issues to be addressed to Governments. We are willing to make sacrifices on their behalf. We join protests, sign petitions, send donations. But these are large-scale and for the most part impersonal problems. They have relatively little to do with what morality was traditionally largely about: the day-to-day conduct between neighbours and strangers, what Martin Buber called the "I-and-Thou" dimension of our lives. Instead, in our personal relationships we believe in autonomy, the right to live our lives as we choose.

A profound political change took place in the 1980s. It surfaced as Thatcherism in Britain, Reaganomics in the United States, and most significantly in the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe. It was as if the realisation had dawned in many countries simultaneously that what had once been a solution — the hyperactive State — had now become a problem. The pursuit of equality interfered with liberty. State intervention inhibited economic growth. High taxation thwarted enterprise. Collective spending was less satisfactory all round than individual spending. The Government should do this and take less, the individual should do and keep more. It was one of those swings of the pendulum that occurs periodically in human affairs, from centralism to localism or vice versa. But what has become increasingly clear in the 1990s is that the "State" and the "Individual" are not two opposed forces. They belong to one another. They are twins. Without the modern State the modern individual could not have come into being. They have grown together like ivy against a tree.

The modern individual is defined by his or her independence from long-term commitments to the past or the future. Authority is not vested in the past, in the form of parents or traditions or communities of belonging. Even Philip Larkin's wonderfully embarrassed description of mid-20th century religious awe — "Hatless, I take off my cycle-clips in

awkward reverence" — is too pious for us now. Nor are we comfortable with the idea of personal responsibility towards an open-ended future. Marriage and parenthood have become contractual and conditional rather than "till death do us part". Individualism of this order could not have existed without a powerful and all-present State. Collectivism and individualism, though they seem opposed, are two sides of the same coin. The responsibilities shouldered by the one give the other the freedom to be what it is.

The eclipse of collectivism and the reasserting tide of the State form our foreseeable political future. On this, parties on both the Left and Right of the political spectrum currently agree. And just as people of moral conviction welcomed the advancing State as an answer to deep social injustices, so they can see in its subsequent retreat other moral gains. The Judeo-Christian

good deeds that grow from below than those which are imposed from above.

What, though, has now become clear is that political change has moved far in advance of moral change. The tree has been removed, leaving the ivy unsupported. We have abandoned collectivism but not yet the individualism which was its symbiotic partner. As the State withdraws part of its protective shelter, many people find themselves suddenly exposed. Single-parent families, the unemployed, inhabitants of inner-city ghettos and others become the casualties. It is, and will continue to be, a traumatic experience whose pain only the most heartless can ignore.

A world in which, in many areas where we had grown used to seeing it, the State is not there, will be one in which we will have to relearn many of the moral habits which came so naturally to our

agenda



In this extract from his new book, *Dr Jonathan Sacks, the Chief Rabbi, looks forward to the rediscovery of mutual responsibility. A second extract appears tomorrow*

ments as well as claiming freedoms and rights. The "I-it" relationship of taxation and benefit will increasingly be replaced by the "I-Thou" of fellowship and community. And we may well come to see that the eclipse of personal morality, which dominated the consciousness of a generation, was a strange and passing phase in human affairs, and not the permanent revolution many thought it to be.

If so, I welcome the future. For it promises to restore to human relationships the compassion and grace, the mutuality and faithfulness, which the Hebrew Bible saw as a lasting ideal — more than that, as the way we bring the divine presence into our lives. The unattached society of the past 30 years has been one of unparalleled personal freedoms. But it has also been one of growing incivility and aggression, of exploitation and manipulation, of temporary alliances rather than enduring loyalties, of quick pleasures over lasting happiness. It has been, quite simply, immature. So long as someone was there — the omnipresent State — to pick us up when we fell, it was overwhelmingly seductive. But it has become dysfunctional and cannot be sustained.

Morality matters. Not because we seek to be judgmental or self-righteous or pious. Not because we fondly recall a golden age that never was, the world of Jane Austen perhaps, when men were chivalrous, women decorous, sin discreet, and all ranks of society knew their place. It

not because we wish to impose a tidy-minded order on the chaos of human imagination and experiment, nor because we are ignorant of *autre temps, autre mœurs* and of the fact that ours is not the only way people have chosen to live.

Morality matters because we cherish relationships and believe that love, friendship, work and even the casual encounter of strangers are less fragile and abrasive when conducted against a shared code of civility and mutuality. It matters because we care for liberty and have come to understand that human dignity is better served by the restraints we impose on ourselves than those forced upon us by external laws and punishment and police. It matters because we fear the impoverishment of significant groups within society when the only sources of value are material: success and wealth and physical attractiveness. In most

societies — certainly ours — these are too unevenly distributed to be an adequate basis of self-worth.

Morality matters because we believe that there are other and more human ways of living than instinctual gratification tempered by regret. It matters because we believe that some projects — love, marriage, parenthood — are so central to our being that we seek to endow them with a much permanence as is given to us in this unpredictable and transitory life. It matters because we may not abdicate our responsibility for those we brought into being, by failing to provide them with a stable, caring environment within which to grow to maturity. It matters because we believe there are other routes out of the Hobbesian state of nature — the war of all against all — than by creating a Leviathan of a State. It matters because as long as humanity has thought about such things, we

have recognised that there are achievements we cannot reach without the collaborative bonds of civil society and the virtues which alone make such a society possible.

Morality matters, finally, because despite all fashionable opinion to the contrary, we remain moved by altruism. We are touched by other people's pain. We feel enlarged by doing good, more so perhaps than by doing well, by material success. Decency, charity, compassion, integrity, faithfulness, courage, just being there for other people, matter to us. They matter to us despite the fact that we may now find it hard to say why they matter to us. They matter to us because we are human and because, in the words of Sir Moses Montefiore, we are worth what we are willing to share with others. These truths, undervalued for a generation, are about to become vital again; and not a moment too soon.

Dr Jonathan Sacks's new book *Faith in the Future* is published by Darton, Longman & Todd (£11.95)

Leading article, page 19



tradition places great weight on individual responsibility and liberty. Government is necessary, but the less the better. That is the consistent message from Samuel to the last of the prophets. The more responsibility we delegate away, the less we are called on to act as the image of God, shaping our world individually by His will. Virtue is greater for being uncoerced. Better the

ancestors but have come to seem strange to us. We will have to rebuild families and communities and voluntary organisations. We will come to depend more on networks of kinship and friendship. And we will rapidly discover that their very existence depends on what we give as well as what we take, on our willingness to shoulder duties, responsibilities and commit-

Why society needs the family

Because not all of us would arrive at laws by our own reflection, and because they must be handed on to the young before they reach the age of reflection, society depends on its mechanisms of moral transmission being in good order. That involves general consent to certain laws as expressions of the collective good. It involves the family as what sociologists call the agent of primary socialisation. And it involves a role for schools, voluntary associations and local communities. Without these, the process of moral transmission will fail, and many things besides law and order will begin to disintegrate.

What has happened — and it is the single most important thing about our social environment — is that these structures have very largely broken down. It is a story in two chapters. The first belongs to the history of ideas, from Kant to Nietzsche and John Stuart Mill. The second belongs to sociology and to that period in the 1960s and 1970s when

ideas that had been circulating among an elite for over a century became lived reality for a whole generation. Today we live with the consequences, some good, others little short of disastrous.

We no longer believe in an objective moral order. Instead we think of the good as something to be pursued individually rather than sought collectively. Education is no longer seen as the indication of the young into the rules and virtues of society. Rather, it has become a way of helping children make private choices as individuals. Above all, we are in danger of witnessing the end of the family as a stable and persisting unit through which future generations are nurtured and internalise the rules we have so painfully arrived at on our collective journey through history. If one of the consequences has been a rise in crime among the young, how could it be otherwise, since we send them so few clear moral signs and are dismantling the one structure — the family —

within which we can effectively do so?

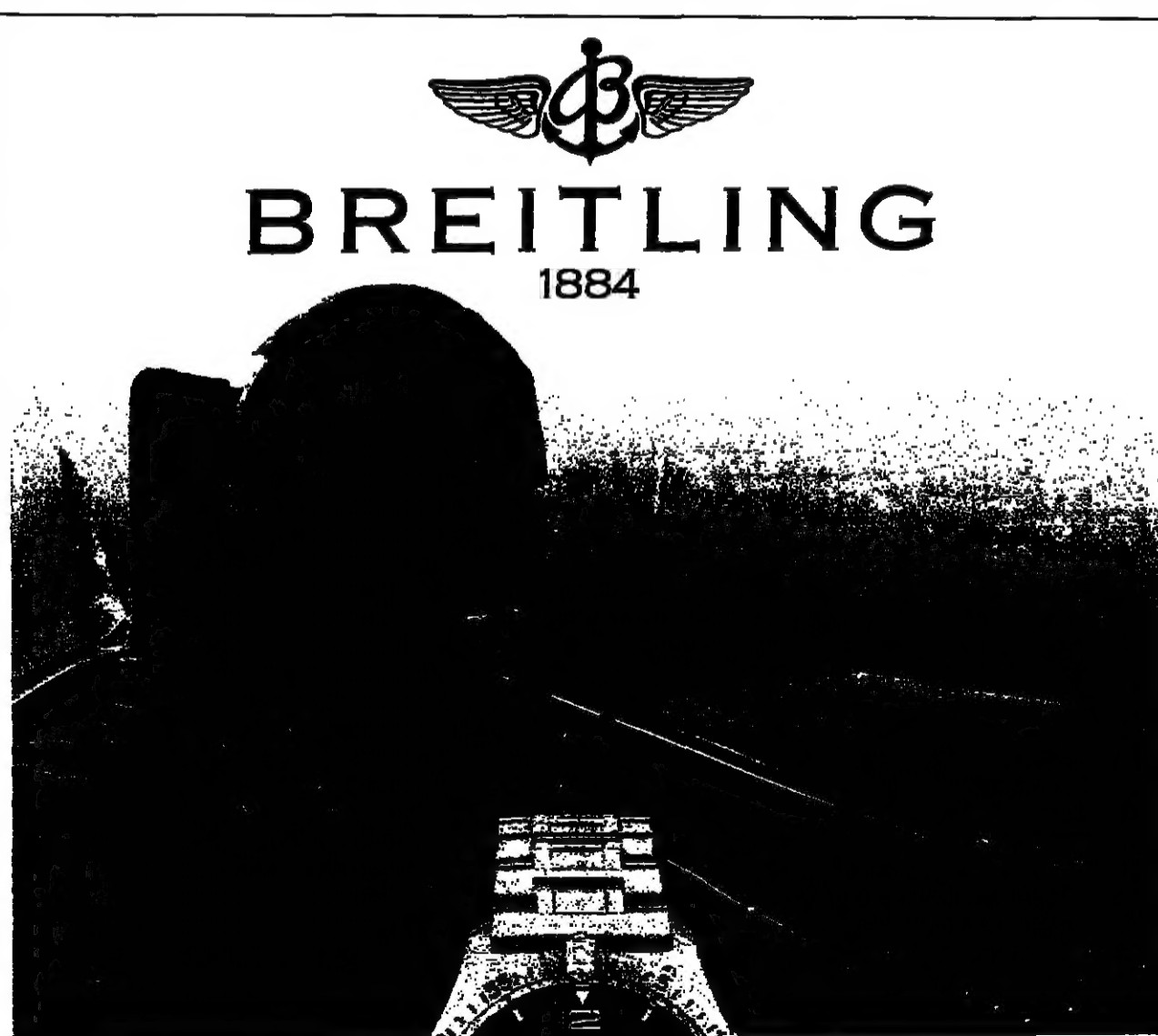
I am not laying the blame for the rise in crime on the breakdown of the family, still less on one-parent families. Instead I am suggesting that a complex set of interlocking processes has taken place in which the breakdown of the family has been both a consequence and an accelerating cause. I am reminded of the question which, according to the Talmud (*Berakhot* 32a), Moses asked God: given such a background, what should Your children have done not to sin?

When one in four children is born outside marriage, when one child in three grows up without a father, when four marriages in ten end in divorce, when the very concept of parental responsibility is seen as an affront to women's right to pursue careers and men's right to pursue their inclinations, when the responsibility for socialising and controlling children has been abdicated in favour of the State in the form of

schools, councils and the police, what shall some children do not to turn to crime?

There are certain things that, as individuals, we cannot change. We cannot single-handedly end unemployment, or bring world peace. But we can affect our children. Over them we have an influence greater than any pop star or politician. And a greater responsibility, because it was we who brought them into being. We severally took the family to pieces, and severally we can put it back together again.

A society in which the whole burden of law and order is placed on the police, the law courts and Parliament is unsustainable. It cannot be done, nor should we wish it to be done. If we believe in personal moral responsibility, then we believe that a law-abiding society is created by the habits of self-restraint, cultivated in early childhood and reinforced thereafter by the moral signals we send. To put it simply: every law enforced in the heart means one less policeman on the street.



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INSTRUMENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS

Plight of the poor worsens as recession forces West to reduce Third World aid

UN seeks to break fetters enslaving destitute women

FROM EVE-ANN PRENTICE IN OUAGADOUGOU, BURKINA FASO

A SCRAP of humanity lay on a torn black plastic sheet in a fly-blown room in sub-Saharan Africa at the weekend, a few hours after being born into a life of desperate poverty.

His young mother, who already had five other children, lay alongside. She cannot read or write and does not know how old she is.

The infant lay strangely quiet in the stifling heat — probably already malnourished because his mother is not properly fed. Yet he is probably luckier than his future brothers and sisters, because his mother at least had medical help for the difficult birth at an aid-funded clinic in the remote town of Bla in Mali.

A crucial part of the clinic's funding comes from the European Development Fund. But two of the fund's donors, Britain and Germany, last month announced they would make severe cuts in their contributions from 1998.

The young mother and her newborn personality many of the problems at the heart of the United Nations social summit opening in Copenhagen today. The meeting of more than 120 national leaders aims to focus world attention on how to help the world's poor. It is a question laden with ethical as well as practical



WORLD
DEVELOPMENT
SUMMIT

cal difficulties. Economic recession has made industrial countries meaner about how much help they give the poor, and unrest in the former Soviet republics, Russia and Bosnia, has drawn attention away from the world's most destitute people in Africa and Asia.

The so-called peace dividend — the money theoretically saved in the cutback in the arms race since the end of the Cold War — has also failed so far to touch their lives.

What has affected people in West Africa has been the dumping until recently of surplus beef from the European Union. The beef mountain may be a big irritant to European farmers, but it is a catastrophe for the already precarious livelihoods of African cattle producers.

There are also big questions about how aid should be given. Many poor countries admit they share at least some of the blame for their plight, for the inefficient handling of their economies and corruption by some post-colonial leaders who creamed off much foreign aid and investment.

The mother and child at the Bla clinic personify these problems because they represent the realities of the tasks facing the UN summit.

Ignorance is arguably the single biggest obstacle to the advancement of poor nations. Yet many men in rural societies, such as those in Mali and Burkina Faso, want their women to stay illiterate and almost permanently pregnant in the belief that this ensures their fidelity.

Family planning faces delicate cultural hurdles. When President Konaré of Mali backed condom advertisement on television there was uproar from sections of the Muslim majority in the country.

World Bank research indicates that investing in girls' education may provide the highest return on any investment in developing countries. Educated women earn higher wages and have fewer children, drastically reducing mortality rates. Yet fewer than 20 per cent of Malians go to



Desperate poverty stalks many African nations. The UN summit opening in Copenhagen today aims to focus attention on helping them

school, and probably only 13 per cent of girls.

In Burkina Faso, adult literacy is the lowest in the world. One reality of these figures is that women do not understand why they should use water pumps installed by aid agencies instead of the disease-ridden open water often closer to hand. Furthermore, 60 per cent of the pumps in

Burkina Faso do not even work, according to the United Nations Children's Fund.

In the bleak wind-swept Malian interior where trees have been cut down for fuel, and the desert wind blows away any chance for most plants to grow, life for women borders on the cruel.

Diarra Kadiatou is typical. She rises at 4am, walks five

miles to fetch water, makes a tasteless meal of maize and oil, washes her children, and cleans her mud-brick home. She works in the fields from 6am to 4 or 5pm. The men break at noon for an hour or two, but she treks home to make more food. In the evening when the men sit around, she grinds more maize. Her greatest desire in life, and she

grins just thinking about it, is to own a tie-dye T-shirt. She once saw one on a battery-powered television.

In Burkina Faso, millions of women exist in the same slave-like way. Burkina's national anthem is entitled *Contre la Fêre Humiliante* — Against the Shameful Fetters. Most aid agencies, the World Bank and the UN, believe that

educating women and relieving them of their fetters would go a long way to achieving the social summit's aims.

□ New York: Sixteen employees of Unicef's Kenya office have been suspended on suspicion of fraud or mismanagement. (Reuters)

Leading article, page 19
Debt forgiveness, page 42

Unrealistic goal of eradicating poverty flaws the conference

BY ROSEMARY RIGHTER

COMMENTARY

THE AIM of the Copenhagen summit is to address a "social and moral crisis ... of immense proportions", according to Boutros Boutros Ghali, the United Nations Secretary-General.

He argues that a "conceptual breakthrough" is needed to arrest the "unravelling" of societies across the globe, in the face of mass unemployment and underemployment, growing inequalities and the crushing poverty in which more than a billion people live.

The draft declaration to be endorsed by world leaders acknowledges extraordinary progress over the past 50 years. Global wealth has increased sevenfold, trade has increased even faster; life expectancy has increased, largely thanks to expanded access to basic healthcare, and so has literacy. More recently, in the past decade, there has also been a growth of democratic institutions, accountable gov-

ernment and respect for basic civil liberties.

The UN's case is that far too many people, excluded from these gains, live without jobs, the most basic necessities, or hope. This, the conference organisers claim, will get worse unless each government not only commits itself this week "to the goal of eradicating poverty in the world", but comes up by next year with policies for poverty elimination, job creation and "social integration" to match, complete with target dates. The persistence of widespread ex-

Western aid agencies have criticised the conference as an empty talking shop, and a few, including Save the Children, have decided to boycott it. Oxfam criticised the European Union for failing to agree a common position on aid policy.

istence poverty is undoubted. But the declaration not only sets manifestly unrealistic targets, it begs a lot of questions about what it means by "unspeakable poverty", the nature of the unemployment problem, and the goal of narrowing inequalities. Nor does it clearly demonstrate that these problems are, as a proportion of the world's population, getting worse.

The classic definition of "absolute poverty" was provided in 1973 by Robert McNamara, then the President of the World Bank, as "a condition of life so degraded by disease, illiteracy, malnutrition and squalor, as to deny its victims basic human necessities", a condition "so limited as to prevent the realisation of the potential of the genes with which one was born."

That condition still applies to hundreds of millions. Although anti-poverty programmes are notoriously

difficult to implement — most reach the poor, but not the "absolutely poor" — it is obviously worth attempting more imaginative, carefully targeted strategies to improve access to such basics as safe drinking water, basic education and primary healthcare, and to help people help themselves through land reform, plots for housing and improved access to small credit schemes and family planning.

But the Copenhagen definition is far wider: it includes limited access to education rather than none, social discrimination, inadequate housing, lack of access to information, low wages, and exposure to crime. The definition also includes in the 1.3 billion people it puts within this bracket millions of city-dwellers in industrialised countries. To spread the net so wide reduces the prospects of a focused attack on the evil of absolute, as opposed to relative, poverty, which would concentrate on removing the obstacles faced by the desperately poor.

The UN's unemployment dossier is similarly flawed, beginning with the claim that there are 2.8 billion people in the global labour force. That would be half the world's population — a statistical impossibility given the huge proportion of under-15s in countries with high population growth, coupled with longer life expectancies. (The World Bank's estimate, still probably too high, is half a billion lower.)

The Copenhagen declaration requires governments to commit themselves to "the goal of full employment as a basic priority". None of the demands will be legally binding on any government. The UN hopes that some may change their thinking. It would have been prudent to define the terms of the Copenhagen debate more precisely.



Rasmussen: leading a comfortable nation

Hardship rare for the hard-up

FROM CHRISTOPHER FOLLETT IN COPENHAGEN

WITH A gross national product of £18,360 per capita, compared with Kenya's £130, Denmark cannot be said to know poverty, although the odd pathetic bag lady can occasionally be seen padding disconsolately around Copenhagen city centre late at night. In Portugal, the poorest nation in the European Union, every fourth citizen earns less than half of the country's average annual income. In Denmark the corresponding figure is well below 5 per cent.

The country does have about 13,000 homeless, but virtually all of them are or can be lodged in hostels.

A recent report carried out for the Government of Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, the Prime Minister, said that up to 200,000 Danes could be classed as poor, meaning that they are forced to eschew such luxuries as regular dental treatment, visits to the hairdresser and shoe repairs, but that nobody starves. It added that the vast majority of Danes have telephones, television, their own car and top class medical care.

Slums amid super-rich luxury divide new India

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIA has produced a crop of economic myths. They include it is an emerging Asian tiger, the middle class is as big as America's, the poor are better off because of economic reforms, poverty is easing.

The reforms, started in 1991, stalled fully 18 months ago because of popular resistance. Most poor people are worse off than four years ago, the true middle class is tiny and economic growth is respectable but unremarkable. For all the drooling of the world's salesmen, no economic miracles are about to happen. There is no explosion in consumer spending: the slums are not emptying.

Per capita income is stuck at about £200 a year. The United Nations Children's Fund says 250 million people are malnourished and 9 per cent of children are severely under-nourished. That is despite 400,000 "fair price" shops for the poor, the introduction of free school meals in some states and impressive increases in food production. For the third of the nation living in poverty, the cost of eating is still too high.

The so-called middle class would be defined as poor in the West. A salary of £5,000 a year is exotic and a family earning a combined £20,000 belongs to the richest 1 or 2 per cent. Prices of food and other basics have jumped because of subsidy cuts under the reform programme, leaving the poor poorer and families on middle incomes struggling.

It is a myth that India is cheap. Petrol is more expensive than in Britain, house rents are higher in better areas of Delhi than in central London, electricity is prohibitive and telephone calls are among the world's most expensive. Middle-income families own a bicycle or scooter

because a car costs four or five times their combined annual income. They live in miniature flats or pack the extended family into one house.

India has about 40 per cent of the world's poorest people, along with a prosperous elite of entrepreneurs and professionals. The rich-poor divide, exacerbated by economic reforms, is nowhere more visible than in Bombay, the commercial capital, home to the richest and some of the poorest in India. It is a portrait of how society is developing and dividing.

The well-off Bombayite pays one of the highest house rents in the world, while half the ten million citizens live in slums or sleep on the streets.

‘Cheap is a myth: petrol is dearer than in Britain, house rents higher than London in up-market Delhi’

Office rents are the world's highest, outstripping Tokyo and Hong Kong. Yet the biggest slum in Asia, Dharavi, sprawls across the heart of the city, sending a stench into smart residential areas and offices. This Latin American-style juxtaposition is becoming pronounced throughout India.

Economic reforms have flushed out the super-rich by enabling them to import foreign cars and consumer goods, creating displays of wealth that were impossible when there was nothing to buy. Until recently the rich and not-so-rich drove the same tank-like Indian Ambassador cars, drank the same local liquor and owned the

same obsolete stereo systems. Now the wealthy have Mercedes limousines, buy Scotch in the marketplace and listen to compact discs on the latest Sony.

It is commonly said that India has a middle class of 250 million. The correct term is middle-income. This misunderstanding has given the false impression of huge pent-up buying power in India. In all of India there are 35 million television sets, most of them mono, equivalent to about one for every five households. One household in 40 has a telephone; 3 or 4 per cent of urban families own a washing machine. Refrigerators are almost as rare.

At least 80 per cent of people have no access to adequate sanitation and two thirds of under-fives are malnourished. India receives a fraction of the foreign investment China gets. Bad roads, dreadful telephones, and unpredictable water and electricity supplies are only part of the explanation.

The reforms may have made it easier for a foreign investor to set up a factory, but antiquated laws make it difficult for him to close it. Duties on capital goods and raw materials are still prohibitive. Federal regulations have been simplified, but state-level bureaucrats jealously protect their culture of corruption and obstruction. Riots and the threat of instability make investors nervous.

The poor scoff at promises of a better tomorrow once the benefits of a reformed economy trickle down. They are antagonised by the new ostentation of the rich. The better-off, fearing social unrest, are erecting high fences around their houses, hiring watchmen and buying big dogs. More and more, India looks like Latin America.



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Colony's poll tests Peking support

BY ROSEMARY RUGHTER
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

VOTERS turned out yesterday in larger numbers than usual to take part in Hong Kong's local elections, the penultimate ballot under British rule. The elections were widely seen as a "dry run" for the more important vote to elect a new Legislative Council on September 17 on the wider franchise established by the constitutional changes passed last summer.

In many constituencies voters chose between pro-Peking candidates and the Democratic Party which wants stronger democratic institutions to limit any Chinese interference in Hong Kong after 1997. The pro-China camp contends that the Democrats' demands just make China angry and more inclined to break its promises of a "high degree" of autonomy for Hong Kong after the handover.

One interpretation of China's apparent determination not to cede the political field to the Democratic Party is that Peking is hedging its bets. It has not totally closed the door to living with the new 1995 Legislative Council (minus those members whose "loyalty" it suspects) after the 1997 handover — provided its supporters do well enough.

However, China may be concerned only to make a propaganda statement, a tactical play that will not affect its plans for 1997.

Of the 59 seats at stake yesterday, 17 were contested by the Democratic Alliance for the Betterment of Hong Kong (DAB), a pro-Peking party that includes Communist members. In addition, 24 so-called "independent" candidates who advise Peking were running, hoping to do well in rural areas.

Before the vote, observers believed that this front could put up a surprisingly good showing against the Democratic Party headed by Martin Lee, which groups Hong Kong's real democrats and was contesting 36 seats in the election.

Ruling congress targets high-level corruption and inflation

Ailing Deng absent as new leadership confronts change

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING

DENG XIAOPING, China's ailing paramount leader, predictably failed to attend yesterday's inaugural session of China's parliament, the National People's Congress. But he was still very much the ghost at the feast.

The 90-year-old architect of the economic reforms that have transformed China in the past 15 years was listed as a member of the praesidium, and his health and legacy were on the minds of the next generation of leaders and the 2,811 delegates.

Yet President Jiang Zemin, the party chief and Mr Deng's hand-picked successor, Li Peng, the Prime Minister, and Qiao Shi, chairman of the congress, seemed very much in command yesterday. Mr Li made a 100-minute speech outlining the Government's tasks for the year, which are to keep inflation down, eliminate high-level corruption and improve agricultural output.

With Mr Deng reportedly in poor health, a post-Deng era has to be contemplated at the current three weeks of parliamentary discussions. The sessions have taken on added significance this year for the clues they can provide to the times ahead. Mr Li mentioned Mr Deng only four times in his speech, significantly fewer than in the past. Mao received one mention. This was one

way, diplomats said, of reminding China's 1.2 billion population that the Deng era is ending, as some associates of the elderly leader find their power bases eroding.

Transitions can be risky endeavours in China, and even though no big problems are foreseen, the unexpected — even perhaps a challenge to the power of the new leadership — cannot be completely ruled out. Given past upheavals, however, Chinese leaders



Deng: four mentions

and most ordinary people, seem to fear disorder. Although the Chinese Communist Party will retain its monopoly of power, diplomats say that the congress, once known as a "rubber-stamp" body, is likely to gain more

prominence in future under Mr Qiao, a former security chief who has, somewhat paradoxically given his intelligence portfolio, a reputation as a reformer. He is capable, envoys say, of making the congress into a more responsive institution of government.

Mr Qiao is also seen by envoys as a possible future rival to Mr Jiang. However, Mr Jiang is expected to increase his base with the promotion during the current session of two new vice premiers close to him, and a big increase in the budget for the People's Liberation Army, which he supervises as chairman of the powerful Military Commission. The army's support will be a key factor during the transition, diplomats say.

Indications that the party will countenance no interference in its monopoly of power, however, came in the refusal of the congress to accept petitions asking for human rights and an independent judiciary, put forward by some prominent dissidents and intellectuals.

Mr Li, in his annual report, said that while China had achieved much, the retail price inflation had soared almost 22 per cent in the past year, far beyond the goal of 10 per cent. "All this aroused great resentment in the masses," the Prime Minister, said.



Zhou Guanwu, centre, whose son has been accused of economic crimes, with delegates at the opening of Peking's National People's Congress yesterday

Ritual pageantry fails to move hard-pressed Chinese

BY JAMES PRINGLE

CHINA'S annual opening of its rubber-stamp parliament, the National People's Congress, is like a museum-piece Communist ritual that in Russia and East Europe has died out with the collapse of Euro-

pean Marxism. Only in Vietnam, North Korea and Cuba, besides China, can these procedures, unwavering in routine, still be seen.

Everything is on a grand scale. There are the great red banners behind the podium and the huge national emblem of the people's republic with its five golden stars

above the Gate of Heavenly Peace. A great glowing red star lies embedded in a galaxy of lights on the ceiling of the vast Great Hall of the People.

Then there are the solemn rows of delegates, sipping green tea from lidded mugs, who follow the keynote speech by Li Peng, the Prime Minister, line by line, so that, at the

end of each of the 35 pages, there is a great rustling in the hall as everyone turns the page simultaneously.

However, most Peking citizens are indifferent to the annual congress session, which sets out the Government's programme for the year ahead. Passing Peking citizens scarcely glanced at the Great Hall. "I

don't care whether the congress goes on or not," the driver of a "yellow locust", a small Peking taxi said. "It means nothing. It just wastes too much government money putting it on." A middle-aged man outside a department store added: "Price rises and high-level corruption are what concern us."

Inkatha decides to call off boycott

FROM MICHAEL HAMILIN
IN ULUNDI

STAKING his claim to the moral high ground, Chief Mangosuthu Buthezi led his Inkatha Freedom Party in ending its boycott of parliament yesterday.

A special party conference held near Ulundi decided to give the African National Congress and the National Party one more month to set up international mediation of a series of issues relating to the

Johannesburg: Thabo Mbeki, South Africa's First Deputy President, is preparing for a meeting, probably today, with Winnie Mandela, the estranged wife of President Mandela, over investigations into her alleged business deals (Ray Kennedy writes). He has intervened twice in the past month to prevent her from being dismissed from her post as a deputy minister.

powers of the provinces in South Africa. Failing that, "the conference instructs the national council to order the withdrawal of all our members from Constitutional Assembly structures".

The Constitutional Assembly, composed of members of the National Assembly and the Senate, both Houses of the national parliament, is writing a new constitution.

Chief Buthezi, who is Home Minister in President Mandela's coalition Government, slapped down a young speaker who thought that enough time had been given and that the party should boycott the Constitutional Assembly right away. "There are games being played for the moral high ground," Chief Buthezi said. He added that a meeting on the issue with President Mandela and F.W. de Klerk, the Second Deputy President, in Cape Town a week ago, "did not come up with anything of substance, but Mr Mandela said he needed time".

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EU may authorise aid for Croatia to avert UN pullout

By MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, AND TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

EUROPEAN Foreign Ministers meet today to see whether extending aid to Croatia can avert a pull-out of United Nations forces, amid signs that President Clinton is backing out of his commitment to send troops to help any UN evacuation.

The European Union ministers will look at the possible extension of aid to Croatia in the hope that this may persuade President Tudjman to lift his order for the evacuation of 12,000 peacekeepers by the end of the month. Hans van den Broek, the External Affairs Commissioner, said last week that it was important for the former Yugoslav republics to be brought into the EU's "Phase" aid programme for former communist states.

However, EU ministers are gloomy about the prospect of renewed fighting, and angry at Dr Tudjman's intransigence. The three Foreign Ministers of Britain, France and Germany, last week urged President Milosevic of Serbia to recognise Croatia and Bosnia to break the deadlock over the latest Contact Group peace plan, but came away without any commitment from him. They fear that if UN troops are withdrawn, fighting between Croatia and Serbia would quickly break out along ceasefire lines.

Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, yesterday called on Mr Milosevic to seize the chance for peace and agree a summit with other former Yugoslav republics to prevent a return to full-scale war.

The Contact Group has offered to suspend sanctions against the rump Yugoslavia if Mr Milosevic recognises Croatia and Bosnia. But he has insisted that they should be dropped altogether, without preconditions. Herr Kinkel said he was "extremely

concerned" about recent Balkan developments. His gloom is also reflected in other Western capitals. British officials have warned repeatedly that all warring parties were stocking up on weapons and preparing to begin fighting when the four-month ceasefire ends in April.

There was some relief at the weekend that Serb forces allowed the UN to take food in to Dutch UN forces trapped in Srebrenica, one of the Muslim enclaves in eastern Bosnia. The 730 Dutch troops had only two days' supply left, and the UN was preparing plans to break the blockade by flying in supplies by helicopter under the protection of Nato air cover. A UN spokesman said in Sarajevo at the weekend



Clinton: backed away from offer of troops

that the blockade was "intolerable" and would not be accepted by the UN Protection Force. But later another spokesman said the convoy had got "some form of clearance" from Serb forces.

Tomorrow's EU meeting in Brussels will focus on the increasing likelihood of a breakdown in the ceasefire

and the need to pull out UN forces. So far, there has been no agreement on a withdrawal plan, and neither America nor its Nato allies know how to pay for the costly process.

Planners at Nato believe that if the 12,000 peacekeepers withdraw from Croatia, their 24,000 counterparts in Bosnia might be forced to follow suit. Such a withdrawal could require more than 70,000 Nato soldiers and may cost as much as £1.3 billion.

During three days of meetings in America ending last night, Defence Ministers from Britain, Germany, France and the United States concluded that such a retreat would be disastrous for the region, but failed to make any contingency plans.

"We would quickly see the collapse of the current fragile ceasefire and the resumption of bitter fighting which would bring great loss of life," said Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary.

President Clinton has further complicated any plans for withdrawal by failing to make a firm decision on the commitment of American troops. Although national security advisers have reviewed the situation, they have been unable to resolve any of the main issues. Meanwhile, the President has done little to clarify the White House position. Senior advisers believe that if Washington holds back long enough, it may add weight to pressure from the Contact Group for Dr Tudjman to reverse his decision.

Mr Clinton said: "I have worked very hard to avoid the long-term commitment of American ground troops in that region, and I will continue to do that. I think that this is something that has to be handled through the United Nations."



A Brazilian policeman admonishes a photographer as his colleagues drag a robbery suspect behind a vehicle in a street in Rio de Janeiro. Moments later, the suspect was shot dead in the sight of a small crowd

UN set to maintain Iraq sanctions

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

INTELLIGENCE reports showing that President Saddam Hussein is rebuilding factories that could produce weapons, have helped the United States and Britain to defeat an effort to lift United Nations sanctions against Baghdad.

Madeline Albright, the American Ambassador to the UN, has returned from a tour of seven countries in the certain knowledge that details of Saddam's war machine will have persuaded members of the Security Council to maintain its current embargo.

For almost a year, France and Russia, the closest allies of Iraq before the 1990 invasion of Kuwait, have argued that Baghdad was close to complying with Security Council demands to abandon its main weapons programmes. The two countries, with passive support from the

Chinese, said Iraq should be granted the legal right to export its oil once more.

Although America and Britain argued strenuously against such a measure, support for their position had declined until the emergence of the recent intelligence data, including satellite photographs. The pictures also indicated that Saddam had spent vast sums on new presidential palaces, despite pleas of poverty to the international community.

A further review is due next week, and any change in sanctions is unlikely. Jerusalem: Israeli ministers were given a warning yesterday to expect increased terrorist attacks on Israeli targets during the coming months (Christopher Walker writes).

The caution came at a special Cabinet session devoted to reviewing the annual

intelligence assessment drawn up and presented by the Israeli Defence Forces. Leaks to Israeli defence correspondents from the report, presented by Major-General Uri Saguy, the military intelligence chief, said that although it judged the probability of a new Middle East war as extremely low for the foreseeable future, a severe rupture of the peace talks could precipitate a limited war in Israel's "immediate surroundings".

The annual review, considered as the basis for wider policy, concluded that although Yasser Arafat, the chief of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, remained firmly in control in the newly autonomous Gaza Strip, he was not likely to wage war there against the main Islamic groups now targeting Jews in suicide attacks.

Welfare food stamps targeted

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

IN THEIR latest effort to reform welfare in the United States, the Republicans are planning to reduce spending on food stamps by as much as \$16 billion (£10.5 billion) over the next five years.

The programme of food stamps — the second largest federal system in the United States, helping to feed more than 27 million poor and mainly black Americans, almost half of whom are children — has been operating for more than 30 years.

Under the plan devised by Republicans in the House of Representatives, there would be savings of more than \$3 billion a year by tightening eligibility, curbing fraud and eliminating certain increases relating to the cost of food.

Under the Contract with America, the Republicans had hoped originally to eliminate food stamps altogether during their first 100 days. The money was to have been combined with that from other nutrition schemes and sent to the states as part of a block grant to be used on merit.

The stamps, however, which next to Medicaid offer the biggest aid to the needy in America, found strong protectors among rural farming communities, where politicians said the programme should survive as the final safety net for the poor.

Republican governors, furious when the project was abandoned, have been putting pressure on Congress ever since to come up with another solution that gives the individual states control of all such welfare programmes.

According to documents leaked to *The Washington Post*, the new proposal would require able-bodied recipients of food stamps without dependents and between the ages of 18 and 50 to find work or lose their benefits within three months.

Chicago gangster runs for office with help from friends

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

EVEN by the traditionally dubious standards of Chicago politics, Walter "Gator" Bradley, a felon and former leader of the city's largest black street gang, seems an unlikely candidate for office.

Mr Bradley, 42, who served a prison sentence for armed robbery and burglary in the 1970s, is running for a place on the Chicago City Council next month, backed by the "21st Century Vote", a group which police say has close links with criminal gangs.

The one-time leader of the Black Gangster Disciples is unapologetic, insisting that politics in Chicago has always been run by gangs of one sort or another, and pointing out that Irish-American politicians have long treated Chicago wards as personal fiefdoms. "If it's all right for blacks to be involved in gangs, it's all right for blacks to be involved in politics," he said. "The attacks on gangs are just a way to isolate the African-American community, to put fear into people."

He remains proud of his links with Chicago's most notorious street gang, which may be his single electoral asset. "I have no problem being part of the gang," he said recently. "I belong to the Democratic Party, that's a gang. Churches I've joined, that's a gang."

Mr Bradley's candidacy has certainly put fear into Chicago residents, who say that the election has become a test of the growing power and political sophistication of street gangs. The Black Gangster Disciples, for example, have formally changed their name to the innocuous-sounding "Better Growth and Development".

Mr Bradley's opponent in Chicago's notoriously violent South Side is Dorothy Tillman, a veteran black politician who has dismissed him as "a monster created by the media". The Black Gangster Disciples/Better Growth and Development boast about 10,000 members, and Mr Bradley's followers have been canvassing hard, plastering "Gator" posters across the South Side and encouraging young, disaffected blacks to vote for one of their own.

When Mr Bradley first announced his candidacy he was dismissed as a non-starter, but analysts now predict a close race. His main claim to fame is that he helped to broker a peace treaty between rival Chicago gangs two years ago, while Ms Tillman has emphasised her links with the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

In Chicago's highly-charged racial atmosphere, the candidates have come to represent two very different faces of black political power. As one Tillman supporter told *The New York Times*: "Gator Bradley went to jail because he was convicted of a crime. Dorothy Tillman went to jail for fighting for the civil rights of black people."

If Mr Bradley is elected next month, he may find himself in congenial company: of the candidates campaigning for a seat on the 50-member council, no less than five are convicted felons.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nuclear waste warning

New York: Scientists at the National Laboratory in Los Alamos have said that a government plan to bury nuclear waste in the Nevada mountains could result in a catastrophic explosion (Ben Macintyre writes).

Two physicists say the waste from nuclear power plants and warheads could erupt in thousands of years' time when the steel canisters containing it dissolve.

Rwanda killing

Kigali: Gunmen killed Pierre Claver Rwangabo, a Rwandan Hutu official, brought into the Tutsi-dominated administration to reassure refugees that they can return home safely. (Reuters)

Greenland poll

Nuuk: Greenland's ruling centre-left coalition led by Lars Erlich Johansen, the Prime Minister, won the Danish protectorate's general election with 58.8 per cent of the vote. (AFP)

Finns warned

Helsinki: Yuri Deryabin, Russian Ambassador to Finland, has warned the country against joining Nato, saying that a decision to join the alliance could provoke an international crisis. (AFP)

Undercover plot

Bangkok: The police arrested 75 students with radio receivers in their underwear and charged them with conspiring to cheat in an entrance examination for a Thai army college. (Reuters)

Husky race protests

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

A THOUSAND huskies ran off into the Alaskan wilderness yesterday at the start of the world's most arduous dog-sled race, despite protests from animal rights groups and the efforts of an indignant poodle breeder.

The 1,000-mile Iditarod Trail race, is over a snow-bound course between Anchorage and the desolate outpost of Nome. Eight dogs have died of exhaustion in the past three races, running for up to 16 hours a day. Protesters say the casualties are

driven until they drop by the mushers, or drivers, desperate for the \$50,000 (about £31,000) first prize.

One of the loudest critics remains John Suter, a poodle racer disqualified after a ban on non-traditional breeds in 1991. He accuses the more ruthless mushers of feeding their dogs steroids, and the race committee of routine cover-ups of dog abuse.

The race committee chairman calls Mr Suter "a nut".

Letters, page 19

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Fighting talk from mild-mannered Prime Minister as Chirac pulls ahead

Balladur takes off the election gloves

EDOUARD BALLADUR, the French Prime Minister, went on the offensive at the weekend as opinion polls showed him trailing Jacques Chirac, his Gaullist rival, for the first time in the May presidential election race.

With his supporters worried that his decline might soon enter a terminal phase, M. Balladur has discarded his consensual image in favour of a new-found pugnacity. But his attacks on M. Chirac's supporters, and their equally virulent response, served to highlight the chaos and rancour that are poisoning the Gaullist movement to which both camps adhere.

In a graphic illustration of the difficulties these splits are creating within the centre-right Government, M. Balladur on Saturday openly quarrelled with Alain Juppé, his Foreign Minister and a Chirac supporter, over public finances. Responding to M

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

Juppé's claim that budget cuts would force the Foreign Ministry to close six embassies and 15 consulates, he accused his Cabinet "colleague" of electioneering.

The decision to announce the cuts "stemmed from concerns which are not those of the good functioning of the public service", M. Balladur said. He had similarly harsh words for M. Chirac himself, taking up claims that his rival's programme would cost up to 680 million francs (£83 million), which M. Chirac vehemently denies. "With me, there are no false promises, no dream which turns into a nightmare," M. Balladur told supporters at a Paris rally on Saturday.

If the Prime Minister's tone has changed since he entered the presidential race six weeks ago with a promise not to criticise other candidates, it is because circumstances have also changed. From a position

of overriding superiority, he has slumped so much that he is now one point behind M. Chirac, according to an opinion poll published in *Le Journal du Dimanche* yesterday. If the two men were in a runoff in the second round, M. Chirac would win by four points, the poll found.

Battered by a series of misadventures, including a telephone-tapping scandal and a dispute with America over the CIA's alleged spying activities in Paris, M. Balladur's camp recognises the need for fast action. "Within the next 15 days, we will have won or we will be dead," Patrick Deydieu, one of the Prime Minister's leading supporters, said on Saturday.

This week Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, France's former centre-right President, and Raymond Barre, who served as his Prime Minister, will end months of indecision by announcing if they intend to run



Jacques Chirac, who is Mayor of Paris, addresses a presidential campaign rally in Besançon, eastern France

for the presidency. According to yesterday's poll, both men would get less than 5 per cent of the vote, but both believe the electorate to be highly volatile. One certain effect of

either's candidacy would be to put a pro-European voice at the centre of a campaign in which Europe has so far been neglected. Beyond that, however, the consequences for the

other candidates of a presidential bid by either man are difficult to predict. As *Le Journal du Dimanche* said in an editorial: "This campaign, in fact, is only beginning. The

table is laid. The knives are out. But, for the time being, the candidates... are only at the hors d'oeuvre."

William Rees-Mogg, page 18

Estonians vote to stay with reform

FROM REUTERS IN TALLINN

PRESIDENT Meri of Estonia said that while the outcome of yesterday's election was unclear, the people would certainly vote to stay on the path of economic reform and integration with the West.

"The parties are divided but the people are not," Mr Meri said as he went to cast his vote in a Tallinn suburb. "I am convinced that Estonia will once more prove to the world that it has made a decision to be reintegrated into Europe and has stuck to that decision," he added.

Mr Meri was made President by the right-wing Government of the Fatherland Party after it won the first election under Estonia's post-Soviet constitution in 1992, a year after independence.

Support for the Fatherland Party was expected to slump in this election, with a more centrist-dominated coalition taking power, but Mr Meri forecast that there would be little change to the path of economic and foreign policy.

Presenter's death heralds crackdown on Moscow mafia

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN is considering imposing tough anti-crime measures in Russia, in the aftermath of last week's murder of a popular television host, which shocked the nation.

The issue is expected to dominate a meeting, scheduled today, of the powerful Presidential Security Council, when government ministers are likely to demand new anti-mafia legislation, which could include increased powers of search and arrest of suspected mobsters.

As tens of thousands of mourners attended the funeral of Vladimir Layev at the weekend, his murder by suspected mafia killers has triggered a debate in Russian society about how to tackle organised crime while protecting the country's shaky democracy.

Last year Mr Yeltsin signed a decree granting law enforcement authorities greater powers and there are moves to strengthen the counter-intelligence service to help in fighting organised crime. However, so far those actions have had little impact. Last year there were 1,820 murders in Moscow and so far this year there have been 281. Many of the killings were contracted

out by the mafia to hitmen and the authorities so far have not arrested a single suspect.

However, there are worries that increasing the strength of the police and the intelligence services will do more damage than good. In particular, liberal Russian politicians and commentators have said that hardliners in the Kremlin may use the Layev murder as an excuse to erode further civil liberties and human rights in the politically charged atmosphere before this year's parliamentary elections and next year's presidential contest.

Their warnings came after President Yeltsin made an impassioned speech last week at the Moscow television headquarters where he argued that the need for law and order in Russia was more important than the threat of a return to a police state.

"We are afraid of ourselves, we are afraid of turning Russia into a police state, and we are afraid to toughen our struggle against these gangs," the Russian leader said on Thursday. "In Uzbekistan they seized and executed six groups of bandits. They were executed by Interior Ministry officers and things began to improve immediately."

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FILM
The brittle wit of Mrs Parker and the Vicious Circle is re-created in Alan Rudolph's movie
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



BOOKS
A mass grave in Croatia is the starting-point for The Heart of Danger, Gerald Seymour's new murder-mystery
IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Saturday



POP
P.J. Harvey takes material from her most recent album, To Bring You My Love, on the road in Britain
ON TOUR: This week
REVIEW: Monday



OPERA
Bring me the head of the Baptist fiery Italian diva Catherine Malfitano sings Salome at Covent Garden
OPENS: Saturday
REVIEW: Monday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

Stranded up a blind alley

POP: David Sinclair watches as 'the artist formerly known as Prince' kicks off his new British tour in unfamiliar musical guise

For the last two years, he has insisted that his name is a gender-blending squiggle, not Prince. Yet when he made his much-analysed acceptance "speech" at the Brit Awards two weeks ago, the diminutive superstar identified himself, three times, as "Prince". The Times has decided to take this as a signal, and will henceforth refer to him as The Artist Who Calls Himself Prince. Even if Nobody Else is Allowed To — or Prince for short.

All this nonsense with the name is, of course, a preposterous indulgence of a super-vain ego, but it is also symptomatic of a genuine identity crisis. At 36, Prince finds himself at loggerheads with his record company, Warner Bros, and in charge of a studio complex and business organisation, Paisley Park, which is reported to be in financial difficulty. He wishes to avoid coasting on his reputation and is desperate to refute the increasingly plausible suggestion that he is past his creative peak.

cross between the spaceships in Barbarella and Alien, among which various members of his group, the New Power Generation, are located. Prince shimmies on, playing a guitar which appears to have been built originally as a crossbow. Halfway through the first number, Endorphine, keyboard player Tommy Barbarella is hoisted high above the stage and flown out over the heads of the audience. Two and a half hours later, Garcia repeats the stunt, dressed as an angel and sprinkling gold glitter on the heads below during the final encore of Gold.

In between is a selection of songs notable in the first instance for their unfamiliarity. These include a falsetto ballad with a noisy climax called Shhh and several heavy-duty, hip hop tracks, such as Days Of Wild and Pussy Control (not about feline matters) which find Prince in rap mode and cheerfully using the oedipal compound swear word as if to the manner born.

His recent hit, The Most Beautiful Girl In The World, gets an off-hand airing about halfway through, ditto Letitgo from last year's Come album (remember that?). There is a quote from James Brown's Sex Machine and a brief, dismal version of John Fogerty's Proud Mary, but otherwise he sticks to the untried and untested. It is a brave and bold display, and what with a few pyrotechnics thrown in during the encores, not bad value as these things go. But for all the talk of burying the old Prince and making a fresh start, none of it goes anywhere new, musically. And as a lyricist Prince's preoccupation with the mechanics of sex have taken him so far up a blind alley that he now has nowhere left to turn.

The SLAVE motif which, as always, is craved on to his cheek, may turn out to have more resonance than he intended. After all, anyone can change their name, but it's a good deal harder to cast off the shackles of the past and escape from what you are.



Daring to be different for an adoring Wembley Arena crowd: the American superstar Prince sticks to the untried and the untested at the first of seven London shows to launch his extensive British tour

Parry's thrust a palpable hit

ONE of the great pleasures of recent years has been making the acquaintance of the five symphonies by Sir Charles Hubert Hastings Parry. Released on the Chandos label, these unpredictably inventive works are now to be joined by an even rarer item: Parry's Piano Concerto.

The concerto, written in the unlikely key of F sharp major, dates from 1878-79. It was given its premiere at the Crystal Palace in April 1880, but after October 1895 it dropped from the repertoire and no more was heard of it for a century.

With the support of the Lloyd's Music Foundation, the Parry scholar Jeremy Dibble prepared a score from the composer's manuscript, and the work was heard once again on Thursday night at the Royal College of Music, in the first of Radio 3's new series of Invitation Concerts. The pianist was Piers Lane and the conductor Charles Beebles.

There are echoes throughout the concerto of various other works in the medium. Curiously, though, it is Rachmaninov's popular concertos, especially the Second (a decade or two in the future),

BBCSO/Davis RCM

that come to mind most often, notably when piano arpeggios pound against an opulent string accompaniment, with a wind instrument picking out a solo line. Parry's Concerto may be less than a masterpiece, but it is well worth reviving.

In the first half of the concert, the BBC Symphony Orchestra was conducted by Andrew Davis in three works by Elgar. Graham Sheen was the eloquent soloist in the Romance for bassoon and orchestra. Elgar's transcription of Chopin's celebrated Funeral March is a curious affair, effectively sparse in the main march sections, uncomfortably redolent of Salut d'amour in the middle.

The Severn Suite incompletely disguises its brass band origins, but Davis was fully alert to its authentic touches of Falsaffian swagger, as well as its occasional bursts of radiant lyricism.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Above criticism

IT IS difficult to be critical about the second of Simon Rattle's 1940s concerts in his "Towards the Millennium" series with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. Difficult, that is, to separate musical motives from historical and political ones in the planning of the programme.

In purely musical terms, the first half of the concert, including Pavel Haas's Study for Strings and Schoenberg's A Survivor from Warsaw, was not of the highest quality. But anyone who knows that the Study was created shortly before the composer was "relocated" to Auschwitz, cannot hear it as just another ingeniously constructed essay in writing for string orchestra. One listens to it in the fear of finding no light in the darkness. But then, at a suddenly luminous point near the middle, one is overwhelmed by the hope that there it is after all.

With its emotive memories from the ghetto and its finally defiant expression of faith in a Hebrew prayer for massed male voices, A Survivor from Warsaw ought to succeed at least in terms of compassion. But it very rarely does. It

CBSO/Rattle Symphony Hall, Birmingham

succeeded so little on this occasion that, at the end, the audience was unsure whether it was over or not.

When it comes to Michael Tippett's A Child of our Time, which was born out of compassion, there is no possibility of distinguishing reactions in the tangle of emotions it inspires. Besides, this was clearly the part of the programme where Rattle had made the major investment of commitment and interpretative energy. The rare quality of the performance was not so much in the big choral passages, or of the often beautiful solo singing from Faye Robinson, Cynthia Clarey, Philip Langridge and Benjamin Luxon, as in the intimate orchestral detail. The idiom of the Tippett melodic line was as illuminating as the wonderfully uninhibited sentiment of the spirituals.

GERALD LARNER

Travelling delight

Nash Ensemble Spadesbourne Hall, Bromsgrove

CLEARLY determined to make the most of the opportunity offered by a Contemporary Music Network tour, the Nash Ensemble is travelling with three new works, Gerald Lerner writes.

However, the most enthusiastic applause in Bromsgrove was for Michael Tippett's song-cycle The Heart's Assurance. An impassioned performance by Adrian Thompson and Ian Brown demonstrated the continuing reality of the pain that inspired the score, more than 40 years ago.

A similarly all-or-nothing account of Simon Holt's Sparrow Night — a dramatically disturbing work with an extravagantly eloquent oboe part written six years ago for the Nash oboist Gareth Huise, who played it on this occasion — meant the second half provided a formidable challenge to the new pieces presented before the interval.

Colin Matthews's Twenty-three Frames for Four Players emerged relatively unscathed from the experience. It is such a bizarre work that it cannot be compared with anything, except perhaps the sources of the quotations on which its 23 tiny sections (none lasting

more than 30 seconds) are based. Whenever the ear catches a fragment of Debussy, Schubert or Brahms, it is tempted to go off with the classic rather than Matthews. Happily, however, most of them are well disguised.

The new scores are Sally Beamish's Madrigali, a setting for tenor and six instruments of words set by the murderous Gesualdo di Venosa 400 years ago, and Robert Saxton's piano quintet A Yardsstick to the Stars. As the by-product of work on an opera, Music to Murder By, the Madrigali do not in themselves add up to very much, intriguing though they are and the long-term project are. A Yardsstick which sets piano against strings in two different time scales, adds up to too much, perhaps. Neither the piano part nor the string part seems complete in itself, but, except at certain key points, neither seems to have much to do with the other.

Subtly skilful forgery of a Chekhov

Starring in Sussex

IN THE first year of their double-act as joint bosses of the Chichester Festival Theatre, Sir Derek Jacobi and Duncan C. Weldon have unveiled a glittering package for the summer. Jacobi himself will star in Terry Hands's production of Peter Luke's Hadrian VII. Leo McKern and Nicholas McAuliffe will be leading Hobson's Choice; Ian Carmichael and Dora Bryan are the stars of The School for Scandal; and Ian Richardson leads Moliere's The Miser.

Harold Pinter directs the premiere of Ronald Harwood's Taking Sides, and stars in his own The House. Alan Ayckboorn's new play, A Word from Our Sponsors, will be directed by himself, and Keith Michell will head Yves Jamiaque's new play Monsieur Amilcar. But perhaps most attention will be focused on the season's last production, where Lauren Bacall is confirmed as the star of Dürrenmatt's The Visit.

THE vintage Live At The BBC sessions may have proved the enduring marketability of The Beatles, but will their reputation survive the release of The Exotic Beatles (Exotica Records), a collection of bizarre cover versions from way back when? Thrill to the sound of Mae West vamping her way through Day Tripper. Listen in horror as veteran cockney actor Arthur Mullard does grievous bodily harm to Yesterday. And blanche as you read the sleeve notes and realise there are 28 similarly gruesome offerings with which to torture yourself.

The bold, sensitive Scarlet Theatre Company is in black and white — starkly funereal and floating pale — for its experimental reworking of Chekhov's Three Sisters, directed by Katarzyna Deszcz.

Against an engulfing darkness, we make out a trio of Edwardian women, looking ahead, only their soft-skinned fine faces closely lit. They evoke Whistler portraits: captured beauties of an era now past. Isolated in her corner, Olga (broad-cheeked Gráinne Byrne) has a hint of Munch, the light falling on her from directly above — a light she clings to in this encroaching winter of the soul.

The Sisters almost seems to depict the aftermath of Chekhov's drama. The action is replayed as if those characters are remembering — them when the military have gone, and with them all hope of marriage.



Gráinne Byrne (left) and Jan Pearson in The Sisters

Helen Anderson's Masha, starchy and passionate, speaks her love some to an immaterial man, her body pressed to the set's single framed window. Breathing against the glass, she utters the words as to a mirror.

The Prozorovs' house has, perhaps, become an asylum. Olga is seated under a low-hung steel lamp. She talks of their father's burial and Irena's nameday, not to Irena but to herself, disjunctly, examining her hands under

THEATRE The Sisters Young Vic Studio

the glare. Irena (Emma Bernard) stands under an identical lamp in the background, laughing spasmodically, still as a wax ballerina. Every now and then she does an odd little stumble. Maybe the "asylum" is a stable. After all, Natasha does, step by step, out her sisters-in-law from house to house. Irena's stumble suggests a mare momentarily breaking point stillness in a night-lit stall.

Masha, proud-chested as a thoroughbred, paces quietly in heeled boots, turning with sudden flamenco stamps. A touch of Lorca's women there. Beyond that, these spinsters, soldierless, have acquired a regimentation of their own.

The production, with its grid-like symmetry of movement, bleak limbo and broken utterance, brings out the Beckett in Chekhov.

The macabre cabaret element does not make so much sense, although Anfisa the nanny's Expressionist semaphore round the samovar is sharply cranked (skeletal, bird-like Linda Kerr Scott). The additional frame, introducing The Three Sisters with the prologue from Konstantin's play in The Seagull, is redundant.

Bernard has not quite got a handle on Irena. But Jan Pearson's Natasha is a superbly comic and disturbing caricature, growing from a self-abasing quavery absurdity to a booming regal monster.

If the rest of the studio's season of experimental theatre is this good, the Young Vic is on to a winner.

KATE BASSETT

Kate Bassett samples the dishes of that moveable feast, The Times Penguin Festival of Fiction

Bookworms underground

Swift. It was a sell-out. The bookworms ranged from grannies to trendies with specs appeal. Whatever the CD-Rom has in store, whatever apocalyptic visions may be inspired by the demise of Pentos, the book is patently far from dead.

The festival is a double celebration this year: of our top authors, and of Penguin's 60th birthday. Malcolm Bradbury — mildly disbelieved, sharply entertaining — paid tribute to Penguin. He called the paperbacks, which first

appeared in 1935 at sixpence, "the great home university of affordable books. They helped, he said, to make him what he is today: 'a national treasure'". Lee, rambling but very funny, recalled reading the first Penguins standing surreptitiously in Smith's, a page a day.

Perhaps the festival's chief quality is that it is both fun and informative: an opportunity to see that reclusive breed, the writer, in the flesh: to hear their own renditions and to ask their opinions. The read-

ings give you a taste for the best. Raffaella Barker's Come and Tell Me Some Lies shone out. And the voices ranged across the ages from Lee, in his eighties, to new writers, female and male. Perhaps some of them, rushing their delivery nervously, need a lesson in live performance.

Perhaps more time should have been allowed for questions. And perhaps the final debate on "Masculinity", including Will Self (how could it not?), tended towards the wittily flip.

But P.D. James, on the popular genre of crime fiction, proved an incisive speaker, packing her short lecture with insights and anecdotes. Looking like someone cosy from the Women's Institute, she quipped about her dark side, which probably all began in infancy with her response to Humpty Dumpty: "Did he fall or was he pushed?"

She also came clean, refreshingly and funnily, about her mistakes. One of her protagonists once reversed on a motorbike. "I still get letters from men all over the world," she observed wryly, "explaining my error in detail, sometimes with a diagram."

SIR EDWARD AND ONWARD.

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How DNA controls the production of insulin □ Throwing light on the internal clock □ Space radar uncovers ancient mysteries

Deadly blow to diabetes

RESEARCH at Oxford into diabetes has produced results that could have implications for many other diseases. The findings tie in with an American trial which has shown that it may be possible to stop diabetes before it starts.

The Oxford research, in Dr John Todd's laboratory at the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics, has shown that susceptibility to type 1 diabetes — the sort that starts in childhood and requires a lifetime of insulin injections — is determined by a stretch of DNA that lies alongside the gene for insulin on chromosome 11.

While many diseases are caused by faults within the genes themselves, the culprit identified at Oxford and reported in *Nature Genetics* lies outside the insulin gene. It is a region consisting of the same short length of DNA, just 14 base pairs long, repeated a variable number of times, like a stutter. Such regions are known as VNTRs (variable number of tandem repeats) and form the basis of genetic fingerprinting. The re-

search shows that people who carry the smallest number of these repeats on both copies of chromosome 11 are the ones most susceptible to insulin-dependent diabetes. These people have about 40 repeats. Those with higher numbers — 85 or 150 — are much less susceptible.

It seems that the repeats are determining the expression of the gene. The gene is the protein's blueprint, while the repeats determine how much to make.

Dr Simon Bennett, one of the team responsible, says that the repeats that produce the lowest



SCIENCE BRIEFING
Nigel Hawkes

amounts of insulin are the ones that appear to protect against diabetes. This seems contradictory, since it is the absence of insulin that causes diabetes. The argument is that people who produce too much of it provoke an immune response in the body which begins to destroy the cells in the pancreas responsible for making insulin. This is where the American trial comes in. Since 1992, people believed susceptible to diabetes have been given injections of insulin at the University of Florida in Gainesville before any symptoms appear. Among them is

Meaghan O'Malley, a toddler whose identical twin Molly already has the disease.

Meaghan had a very high chance of developing the disease. Tests showed her pancreatic cells were already under attack and doctors expected her to develop diabetes within two months.

The purpose of the prophylactic injections of insulin is to discourage the body from making its own. If over-production of insulin is the initial problem — as the Oxford results suggest — then damping it down could stop the disease ever emerging. And so it seems.

After 18 months, Meaghan showed no signs of diabetes. The same was true of all 12 subjects treated. "We are amazed by the results," says Barbara Zoravich, the study's clinical co-ordinator. Now much bigger trials are under way in America.

Nor does the story end there. VNTRs are found throughout the genome, in at least 2,000 places, including one close to a cancer gene, where they may predispose to bladder cancer. "It's beginning to look as if they could play an important role in human biology," Dr Bennett says.

Bright sparks

THE glow of the firefly has been used to work out how plants keep time in a series of ingenious experiments at the University of Virginia.

Plants have their own internal clocks, which control a host of functions, such as leaf movements, pore openings, and flowering schedules. In other organisms, such as bacteria and fruit flies, the genes controlling the clocks have been found by watching whole colonies and identifying individuals which do things out of schedule with the rest. The rhythms of plants, though, are too subtle to be easily spotted.

Dr Steve Kay, of the Centre for Biological Timing at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, got round this difficulty by taking the gene that makes fireflies glow, and attaching it to the photosynthesis gene in a plant of the mustard family called *Arabidopsis*.

This meant that every time the

photosynthesis gene was turned on by the internal clock, the plant produced the enzyme luciferase. When sprayed with the chemical luciferin, the active plants glowed. Then Dr Kay's team had only to look for plants glowing at the wrong time — in the middle of the night, for example — to identify those whose clocks were wrong.

Comparison of the mutant plants with the normal ones showed that the gene controlling the clock — which they have called *toc* — lies on chromosome five, the team reports in *Science*. Biologists are now interested in investigating whether all organisms march to the same clock.

Angkor ways

LAST year, as the space shuttle *Endeavour* passed over the ancient city of Angkor, Cambodia, its Earth-imaging radar was switched on. The idea came from John

Stubbs, of the World Monuments Fund in New York, who hoped that the radar could reveal details of the city now covered by the jungle. The pictures bore him out.

They show linear features to the north of Angkor which may be ancient paths or tracks, now covered by trees but showing subtle variations in radar signal when compared with surrounding vegetation. Elizabeth Moore, a specialist in Cambodian art and architecture from the University of London, has also identified what appears to be a dam, part of Angkor's complex system of canals and irrigation channels.

This dam had never appeared in satellite or aerial pictures before, and nor could it have been seen from the ground because it lies within an area now controlled by the Khmer Rouge.

Now Nasa is to be asked to do more archaeology, with Easter Island, the ancient city of Buzint in Albania, and the Kathmandu Valley in Nepal high on the list. The ability to detect variations in texture and the fact that in open country the radar signal penetrates five metres into dry ground make it a powerful tool.

What breaks the polar ice?

A gigantic iceberg in Antarctica is an important clue to global warming, says Hugh Aldersey-Williams

THE dramatic birth last month of an iceberg the size of Majorca is not unprecedented in terms of size. The same location — the Antarctic Peninsula that reaches up towards South America — spawned an iceberg the size of Cyprus in the 1930s.

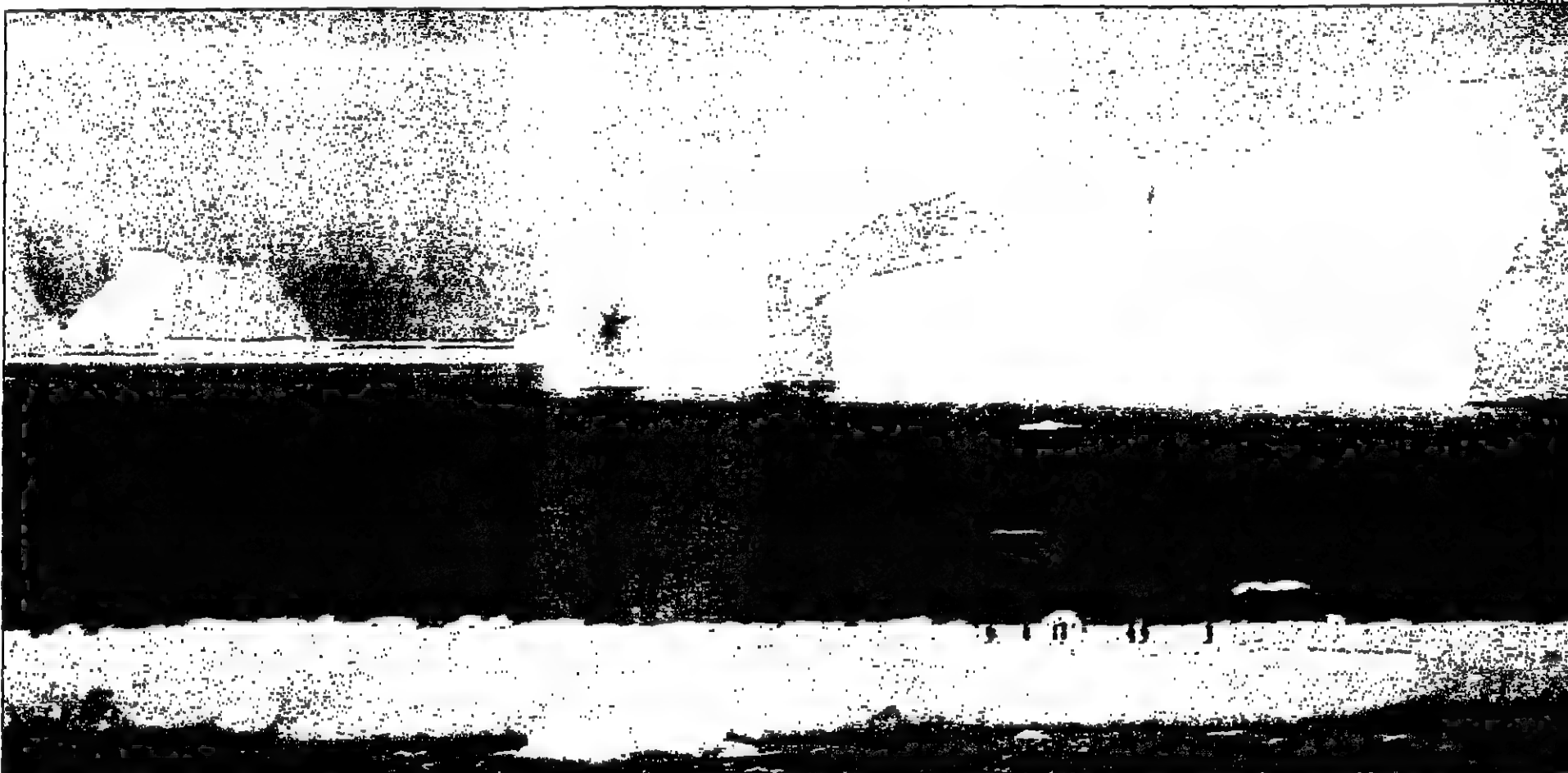
But it is the first huge iceberg to have formed with such suddenness. The break-up of the "Cyprus" iceberg was predicted decades ahead. It was merely a spectacular illustration of what happens when a glacier reaches the sea.

The "Majorca" iceberg, on the other hand, took scientists by surprise. It took weeks rather than years to free itself. In this sense, its arrival parallels the fragmentation of the Wordie ice shelf in 1989, an event brought on by global warming, according to scientists at the Cambridge-based

British Antarctic Survey. The new iceberg has broken away from the opposite side of the peninsula but at a similar latitude. "So it is probably a similar mechanism," says Dr Peter Sammonds, of the Rock and Ice Physics Group at University College London.

The unexpected event adds spice to new data obtained by a Nasa satellite which shows sea levels rising at twice the rate previously thought. It will provide food for thought for scientists, environmentalists and politicians who meet in Berlin this month to consider upgrading commitments made at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio to tackling likely causes of global warming.

The 0°C isotherm represents the limit of an ice sheet. The advance of this isotherm during Antarctic summers sees the fringe of the sheet give rise to new icebergs. If the



A tabular iceberg that has been calved from the ice shelf — the study of Antarctic ice like this helps scientists to predict melting that might be caused by global warming

isotherm advances rapidly, then it is possible that larger icebergs will tend to break off.

However, the propensity of the ice to break depends on its fracture toughness, rather than temperature. Comparatively "tough" ice might hold together as the isotherm advances and melt as a block. More brittle ice will break and then melt. Dr Sammonds and his colleague at UCL, Dr Martin Rist, have been working with glaciologists led by Dr Hans Oerter, at the Alfred Wegener Institute in Bremerhaven, Germany, in an attempt to discover more about the fracture behaviour of ice shelves.

In the face of larger worries about global warming, the melting of icecaps and rising sea levels, it might seem arbitrary whether the ice melts first or breaks first. But it is not. This is because ice melts more slowly in air than in water. If ice sheets and ice shelves remain integral, they will melt comparatively slowly. If they fragment easily, chunks of ice will drop into the sea and melt much faster.

Most of the Antarctic ice sheets are comparatively sta-

ble because they are marooned on land well above sea level. They will melt only extremely slowly, even in the event of considerable warming. But others rest on land up to 2,500 metres below sea level. These are in constant contact with sea water. One such sheet alone, the West Antarctic sheet, would cause a five-metre rise in the world sea level were it to melt. But the greatest amount of ice breakage and melting occurs at sea level. Here, floating shelves of ice are subject to huge forces from winds and tides which break the ice and set free new icebergs.

Dr Oerter's group has collected ice from Antarctic ice shelves which include core samples totalling more than 300 metres in length, taken through the entire thickness of ice shelves. With funding from the Natural Environment Research Council, the UCL physicists have employed tests typically used by metallurgists, bonding and stretching the cylindrical ice samples so that cracks begin to form. The progress of



Ice sampling: Dr Hans Oerter, right, with colleagues

the cracks is monitored by means of acoustic emission — a sophisticated way of picking up the squeaking noises that ice makes when you walk across a frozen puddle.

Ice that has accumulated by the compression of successive snowfalls has particular properties. "This ice has been deformed and strained for tens of thousands of years," says Dr Sammonds. "Its behaviour is very dependent on this strain history." Better estimates of the fracture toughness of polar ice will help scientists to predict the likely

pace and extent of the melting that might be caused by global warming. Early signs are ominous. "The likely effect of sea water is corrosive, allowing cracks to grow at lower stresses," Dr Sammonds says. Polar ice can also provide more subtle intelligence regarding past and likely future climatic change. Research by Thomas Blunier and colleagues at the University of Bern, published in the current issue of the science journal *Nature*, reveals the variation in the concentration of methane gas in the atmo-

sphere in the Holocene Era — the 10,000 years since the ending of the last Ice Age.

Methane is 20 times more dangerous as a potential cause of global warming than carbon dioxide, although it is present in far smaller concentrations in the atmosphere. Blunier extracted methane from tiny air bubbles trapped in ice from a site in Greenland. He found surprisingly large variations in concentration. In particular, he observed a dip in methane levels during the mid-Holocene period 5,000 years ago, a time when it is known that many tropical lakes dried up.

The Holocene period is important because it gives us the best data on how the Earth reacts to global warming. In the early Holocene, as the Earth warmed up after the Ice Age, lakes dried, causing biological sources of methane to die out, and levels in the atmosphere to decrease. Today, both industry and agriculture augment the methane released into the atmosphere by natural geological and biological processes.

Since methane in the atmosphere has a large potential

global warming effect, its decrease as a direct result of warming may counteract the initial effect. The entire cycle may be self-correcting. But, says Blunier: "The contrary might be true as well. Many changes in the atmosphere influence the level of methane. Some regions might become more humid, and more methane might come out."

Holocene ice contains other clues to climatic change. Dr Chris Caseldine, at the University of Exeter, is examining pollen frozen into Icelandic ice in order to learn about the pattern of vegetation since the last Ice Age. He believes that changes at that time may provide a useful indication of what we can expect to see if global temperatures take a sudden upturn as a by-product of industrial progress. "As you go into a warming after a very cold phase, there is potential for very rapid change," Dr Caseldine explains. "Although we are not starting from the same base, we need to understand if the responses can be as quick."

Operation Horn is saving the black rhino

Jan Raath reports on a desperate measure in Zimbabwe to rescue one of the world's threatened species

DESPERATE measures taken by Zimbabwe's wildlife authorities to save the endangered black rhino seem to be working. Since they began removing the animals' horns, which is the part prized by poachers, and substantially increased their protection, rhino survival rates have improved.

Late last year, Dr Michael Kock and Dr Mark Atkinson, veterinarians working for the Zimbabwe Department of National Parks and Wildlife Management, returned to Hwange National Park for the first follow-up to the dehorning operations they carried out in 1992, and came back smiling. Writing in the journal *Conservation Biology*, they report a healthy survival rate among the calves of young, dehorned mothers.

No other large mammal in Africa has suffered such a rapid population decline as the black rhino. In Zimbabwe, numbers have dropped catastrophically from 2,000 in 1990 to only 300 in 1992. These

survivors were concentrated in the more secure national parks and private game ranches.

Dehorning was a measure of last resort. Dr Kock and Dr Atkinson refined techniques of darting and anaesthetising them from the air. They also learnt to shave the two horns off at the surface of the wrinkled skull, in which the heavily compacted horn fibre is rooted, and to sculpt the stub to avoid malformed regrowth — no mean feat with a heavy chainsaw.

Some zoologists were worried about interfering so drastically with a species that was close to extinction. Their fears seemed to be confirmed by a study of dehorned black rhino in Namibia by two American conservation biologists. Early last year they reported that no calves born to dehorned mothers had survived and concluded grimly that the mothers' ability to defend themselves had been severely prejudiced. Happily, when Dr Kock and Dr Atkinson returned to



A rhino undergoes "protective" dehorning with a chainsaw

Hwange last year to search for the 17 cow-calf pairs that they had dehorned in 1992, their findings were altogether different. Seven of the pairs had had calves under six months, and five of these pairs were located. The calves now

weighed about 750kg and were ready to leave their mothers.

"That's a 71 per cent survival rate, which is excellent," Dr Atkinson says. He assumes that the other two pairs were shot by poachers before the intensive protection zones (un-

fenced but heavily guarded areas inside national parks large enough to contain the rhino's limited range) were operational, and when poachers were still ignorant of dehorning.

The doctors found only five of the ten cows that had had calves older than six months in 1992 and assumed, again, that the others had been hunted. But of the survivors, three had infant calves with them.

Better still, during their follow-up observations, two mothers of the first cow-calf group dismissed their three-year-old calves to fend for themselves and gave birth to young — in all, five new infant rhinos. "That's a recruitment of between 6 per cent to 8 per cent a year, which is extremely healthy," Dr Kock says.

One of the mysteries zoologists have yet to solve is what purpose a rhino's huge horns serve. They do not vary in size between the sexes and can grow to more than a metre long. But adult rhinos weigh in at one tonne, and their bulk alone is sufficient to deter predators. One theory speculates that the horns evolved for protection against predators that have since become extinct. Today the rhino uses its horns with greatest effect

against its own kind. Fatal wounding from fighting is estimated to be responsible for more than half of black rhino deaths — another reason why dehorning will give them a better chance of survival.

Like human nails, the horns grow back — the anterior at a rate of seven centimetres a year, and the posterior at about three centimetres — so eventually the whole elaborate dehorning process has to be repeated.

Dr Kock concludes: "There is no doubt in my mind that if our rhino had horns, and even with improved law enforcement, there would still be regular incursions by poachers. But with a good chance of getting caught for a small stub, they feel it is not worth the risk."

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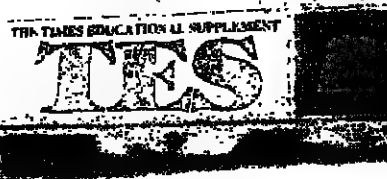
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Magnus Linklater reports from the barricades of Pollok Free State

Children on the road to rebellion

Pupils are lured from lessons with old-style propaganda of the far Left

The hairs on the back of my neck twitched ever so slightly last week as I watched a group of Glasgow schoolchildren chanting slogans and yelling abuse at a line of impassive police. It was not just that they seemed so young, nor even that they seemed so angry. It was more that they seemed so organised.

Among them one could see one or two adults, offering words of advice. The police moved in, there were scuffles, a few "arrests". Nothing serious, but disturbing all the same, particularly as the young protesters should have been behind their desks rather than out on a busy thoroughfare attempting to stop the building of a motorway.

With truancy already a problem, the proximity of the Pollok Free State site to two secondary schools, Bellarmine and Crookston Castle, has acted as a magnet to teenagers.

Teachers and local councillors have expressed concern about the manipulation of vulnerable children. The police are worried about the danger on busy roads. There has been less concern expressed by parents, some of whose children are long-term truants.

But it is the growing political dimension of the demonstrations against the new M77 at Pollok, south of Glasgow, that is making it such a cause célèbre. The protesters who have moved in to confront Wimpey, the contractors, have built their own tented site and designated it the "Pollok Free State". Members of Militant Labour have been supporting them. Political courses have been instituted at a "Free University", and children have been joining in. Leaflets have been distributed in school, offering lessons in "political empowerment", "living skills" and



School's out... the so-called Pollok Free State has acted as a magnet to teenagers. Some parents apparently would rather see their children protesting than sitting around aimlessly at home

"spirituality". One protester told *The Herald*: "The children are more powerful than we are. All they need is a little training. We'll be training them in non-violent direct action. What to do if they're arrested." That sounds much like the language of political indoctrination used by the Workers' Revolutionary Party in the 1970s.

Frank Corrigan, the head teacher at Bellarmine, is cautious, however, in drawing conclusions from what is happening. He says that the school curriculum has contributed to interest in the issue. "If you have been teaching environmental studies in a school over a long period," he says, "you are bound to have a

heightened awareness of the environment. Our pupils feel very strongly about them, and they have a right to express their views." He does not feel that he has any control over what they do after school, and believes that that is entirely the responsibility of parents.

Where he draws the line, however, is over what has been happening within the school. He has referred the propaganda leaflets to the police, and is unhappy about the pressures being placed on those pupils who are already only too eager to find excuses for avoiding class. "Most of the children are just getting on with the business of preparing for their exams," he says.

"But there are some 15-year-olds who are not attending school and who are vulnerable to pressure."

The difference was illustrated by the attitudes of two children who have been joining the protest. One 13-year-old girl denied angrily that she had been manipulated. "If this didn't mean anything to us we wouldn't be here in the rain, at weekends and after school," she said. "This is our future."

In contrast, a 14-year-old boy was quoted as saying: "It's brilliant here, you learn stuff, they let you chop logs and abseil but only if someone is watching... school's crap." Some parents, whose children rarely go to school anyway,

have said that they are frankly happier to see them occupied with the protesters than sitting around aimlessly at home.

A militant Labour councillor, Tommy Sheridan, who represents the Pollok district and is a veteran of high-profile protests against the poll tax and local housing conditions, has been accused by a fellow-councillor of being the "Pied Piper" of the children's protest. He responded blithely by saying: "I can't even play the flute," and he is quite unabashed at the criticism. But he admitted that he had been encouraging the pupils of both schools to

form a students' union to fight for the right to join the protest during school hours.

All of which enrages not only the police but local councillors. "Children are being used here," says Thomas Farrell, Strathclyde's education chairman. "It is a disgrace what these people are trying to do. The pupils have every right to protest if they want to. But to exploit them, to expose them to danger, to set off fire alarms to get them out of school when they should be in class, that is just unacceptable." He claims that 145 out of 700 pupils have been lured into joining the demonstrators. Mr Corrigan, perhaps aware of

the need to balance the opinions of parents and teachers, is more philosophical. He says that the number of those playing truant has not risen significantly since the protest began.

The child demonstrators of Bellarmine and Crookston Castle may not quite bear comparison with the 13th-century Children's Crusade when 20,000 young people, encouraged by the Church, set off to free Jerusalem from the infidel. But for a generation disillusioned by national politics, the combined attractions of saving the environment and absorbing the language of protest have their temptations.

Superman, the true romance

DEAR ME! Try as one might to keep oneself respectable, the quicksand of popular culture always sucks you down in the end. You can live in the country, listen to Radio 4, go to bed early with a nice Neill Shute and never watch *The Word*, then suddenly, a cruel twist of fashion hurls you right into the swim. Very unsettling.

This time, we fashion-disasters thought we were just watching children's television. But the latest family mania apparently puts us among the knowing followers of a "gay totem", and lines us up with professors of cultural studies at new universities, who burble of "a Nineties remix, with multiple levels of irony, heightened sense of camp and a post-modern sensibility". Good God, what next? I shall be starting to appreciate Quentin Tarantino. Pass the Horlicks, quick.

The cult is *The New Adventures of Superman*. Dean Cain plays mild-mannered Clark Kent, the *Daily Planet* reporter who suddenly comes over all blue tights and hair-oil when disaster threatens. Teri Hatcher is Lois Lane, the reporter who adores Superman, patronises Clark Kent, and never notices that they are the same man. I have not missed an episode, and even the risk of responding to an ironic post-modern sensibility cannot ungle me now.

I began watching simply because it offered to answer the old, tormenting question: "How did Clark Kent get along in his

Pass the Horlicks, dear, I believe I might be falling in love



LIBBY PURVES

day job?" Some glitch of personality made me, from earliest years, more susceptible to the glamour of newspaper offices — proper old clattering ones with grizzled editors, as featured in *Front Page Story* — than to the glamour of superheroes. Reading the comics, I would skip impatiently over the dreary, routine feats of X-ray vision and superstrength, searching for clues as to what Clark Kent did on the paper. Once he ducked into the telephone box, I lost interest.

And this version concentrates on *Daily Planet* life. Lois Lane is the senior reporter who takes on this harmless redneck as her partner. Laptop under her arm, she flings herself at every story with a passion poor bespectacled Clark yearns to arouse, but never

will. Because, of course, he is too much of a New Man.

He likes to do earnest stories about old people's homes. He worries about Lois, and often flies home to discuss her with his Mom (who made all his flying costumes herself, after a lot of trying-on). He is too honourable to use his X-ray vision on Lois's tantalising trenchcoat, and when he sees through walls in pursuit of a story, he always pretends it was a hunch and lets her take the credit.

He listens to her rantings, and gets politely embarrassed when he senses a collapsing crane on the far side of the city and has to leave her abruptly, in mid-nag. He flies up to see her sometimes as Superman, but would never embarrass her in the office with his knowledge of her apartment. Clark pretends not to know those little womanly things that Superman knows: eg that she keeps all her press awards back lit in a secret alcove for private sessions of self-worship. Clark-Superman would never take public advantage of his private knowledge of a lady. He is every girl's dream.

Except that, like every busy woman, Lois is too blind to realise that the Superman she yearns for is the chap at the next desk who brings her coffee and enjoys social service reporting. This, oh cultural commentators, is actually a very, very old-fashioned love story. The children think it is an adventure show, and can never see why it reduces their mother to such a funny state. They'll learn.

Ben Macintyre reports on a fraught search for a hand to rock the cradle

Our American friends warned us: having a baby in New York, they said, would bring a brand new person into our lives and home, a complete stranger with unpredictable needs and demands, alien, intrusive and expensive.

They were referring, of course, to *The Nanny*.

Raised on British expectations of nannydom we had blithely expected to recruit a combination of a Norland matron and "Tiggy" Legge-Bourke, someone discreet and friendly, with large hands and good references who could be relied on to mind the baby while we went to work or, perhaps one day in the distant future, out to dinner.

But in New York, inevitably, a process that ought to be child's play has turned out to be fraught with unexpected social implications, strange fears and unlikely tensions.

The nanny is a focus of obsessive discussion by many New York parents, a figure more central to their lives than the therapist, the employer or even, in some cases, the spouse. Our fellow New York parents appear to regard their nannies with an odd mixture of resentment, reliance and guilt.

It is not simply the fear of getting the Nanny from Hell, as in the film *The Hand That Rocks the Cradle*, that makes the average New York parent so paranoid, but a nagging suspicion that the whole notion of hiring a nanny is somehow unfairly un-American in the Great Egalitarian Society.

America's political minds have been closely focused on the issue of nannies in recent months. First,

Falling into a nanny state

Two Clinton candidates for Attorney-General saw their hopes scuppered when it was revealed that they had both hired illegal nannies. The "dirty nappy factor" also became a key issue in the race for the California Senate, when both Michael Huffington and Diane Feinstein admitted that they, too, had employed illegal immigrants.

Upstanding American citizens who would sack their nannies on the spot at the first hint of any illegal behaviour seldom think twice about breaking the law when they need a child-minder. Fervently out the illegal nanny hidden in every politician's closet has become a stock campaign tactic.

As Susan Cheever explained in a lengthy article in last week's *New Yorker* magazine, nannies are the vehicles that enable New York's working women to work, yet they are often treated appallingly. She



A scene from *The Hand That Rocks the Cradle*

recounted how some New York employers expected their nannies to double up as cleaning-maids, dish-washers, receptionists and, in one particularly unpleasant case, to act as chief poop-scooper for the family dog.

According to statistics from the Department of Consumer Affairs, there are 300,000 children in New York left to the care of nannies. Since the vast majority of these nannies are illegal immigrants, paid in cash, they have no job security: those who survive the rigorous demands of a New York family may find themselves suddenly fired, without notice, for the most trivial of reasons.

In return most nannies, it seems, cordially loathe their employers and gather in disgruntled knots with their privileged wards to gossip about the idiosyncrasies of their parents.

As with so many other aspects of

Manhattan life, there is a hidden social agenda behind the world of nannies, and recruiting the right child-minder is often a matter of furious competition.

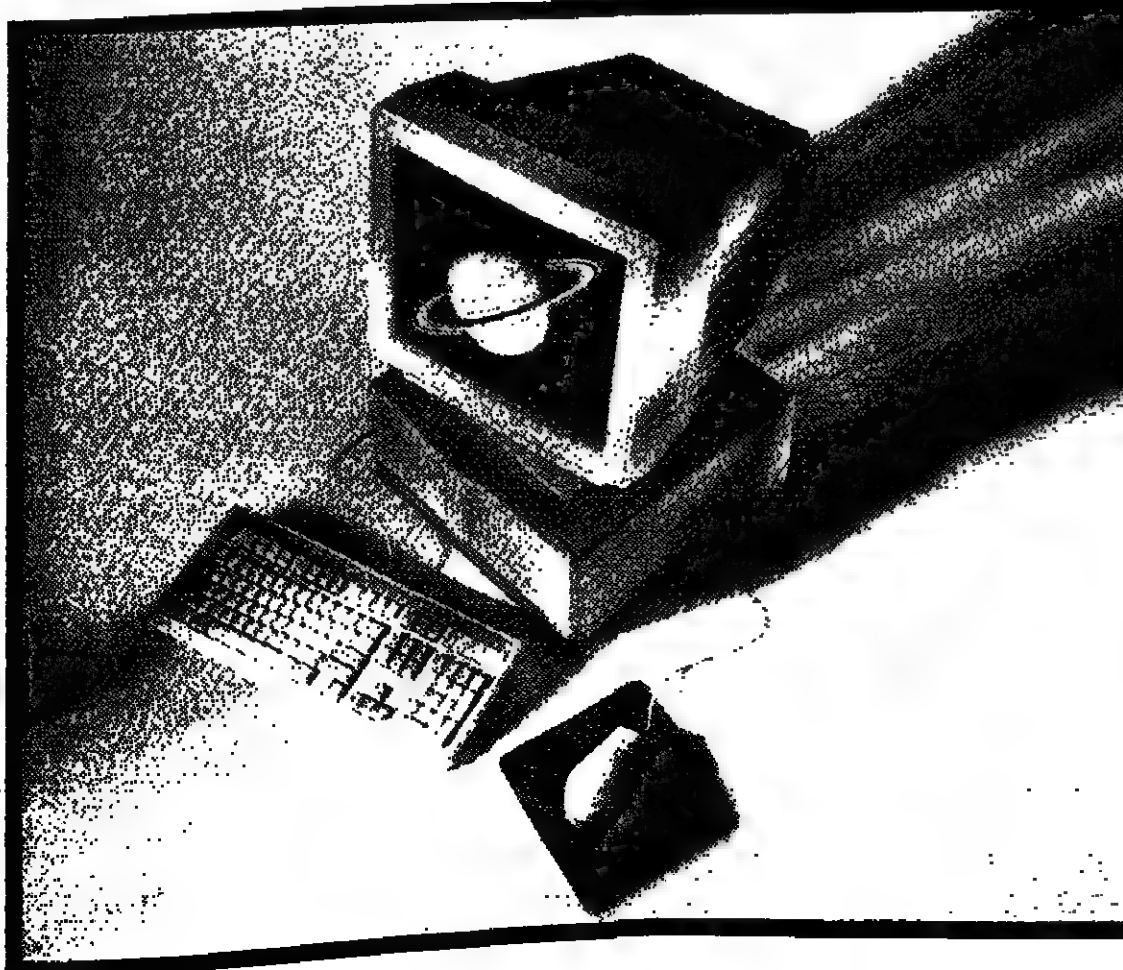
Too late we discovered that truly ambitious parents begin the search for the ideal nanny even before a child is born. Acquisitive future mothers have been known to stake out the nannies who congregate near the duck pond in Central Park in order to identify the most attentive child-minder before sidling up to find out whether the woman in question would be interested in a higher salary.

Having read the *New Yorker* article, and with the dire warnings of our contemporaries ringing in our ears, the nanny question began to assume monumental proportions: would she hate us as much as all other nannies appear to hate their employers? Should we hide in the shrubbery of Central Park and try to steal someone else's nanny? Should we hire a legal nanny through an agency or go the other route and give up any hope of ever becoming US Attorney-General?

We braced ourselves for a long search for the right hand to rock our cradle. In fact, of course, the first person interviewed turned out to be perfect, a veteran Jamaican nanny with the ability to soothe our son with a single word.

"Why do New Yorkers make such a fuss about getting nannies?" I asked her, after we had hired her.

"Because people who want to bring up children in New York are mad," came the swift response.



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Matthew Parris



■ When we are taken back to the actual words of the Gospel, their harshness can be a shock

My godson's confirmation, yesterday, prompts an essay of a religious nature: only the second I have ever written. It concerns the side of Christian morality which from early youth has most troubled me. Christianity offers us a reason to be good, but a disgraceful one. We are asked to be virtuous in order to save our own skins.

I do not lay this charge against the Bishop of Oxford, who conducted Gordon's confirmation at St Edward's School yesterday. It was a lovely, sincere service, and the bishop's sermon was kindly and intelligent. He recommended the Christian life in a way which rendered the question "Why?" almost redundant.

Almost. But I couldn't help remembering my dismay, recently, when watching a revival of *Godspell*. The show relies heavily on St Matthew's Gospel. It brought me hard up against a problem about Christian ethics.

We are very rarely taken back to the Gospels, except in short selected passages chosen for religious services. A layer of modern interpretation has intervened, obscuring the primary source. This enables us rather lazily to blame "organised religion" for whatever seems difficult in the Christian message.

I have always preferred to believe, in a vague way, that Christ himself was an infinitely kind, tolerant being, and that the barbarisms of his Church were a later distortion. Cornered, one blames St Paul.

I grew up under the impression that Jesus himself was not a fire-and-brimstone sort of teacher: that he would have disagreed with Paul and had little in common with John Knox.

Surely, Jesus was not concerned with the tariffs of sins, but taught that virtue was its own reward? That is why *Godspell* came as such a shock. The impression — and it was the biblical quotations alone which fostered it — was of a teacher trying to frighten impressionable people.

"Anyone who is angry with his brother must be brought to judgment... he who sneers at his brother, must answer for it in the fires of Hell" (Matt 5:22). But I do not believe that fear of burning would be the best reason, or even a good reason, not to sneer at my brother, though it might be a compelling reason.

"And so angry was the master that he condemned the man to torture until he could pay the debt in full. And that is how my Heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brothers" (Matt 18:34-35). Not only do I find this an

unpleasant motive for forgiving my brother, I find it an impossible one. It can only be a motive for acting as though we forgive: fear of pain cannot inspire real forgiveness, a desire to escape Hell cannot inspire real love. Such terrors are precautionary rather than uplifting. They appeal to a rather mean streak. Surely such fears and desires are a distraction from the change to our own hearts which at other times Jesus seems to be urging?

Yet these sentiments are not isolated instances. They recur all through the Gospels. "But what of the bad servant who sits around saying, 'Oh well, the master is a long time in coming', and he begins bullying the servants and eating and drinking with his drunken friends?" I tell you this. The master will come on a day he does not know at a time he least expects and will cut him to pieces" (Matt 24:48-51).

A heretical thought troubles me. I don't care for the companionship of snivelling cowards who are behaving well because there is goodness in their hearts, but because they are

I respect the bishop and enjoyed the choir, but in the end I cannot accept the message

"Then he will say to those on his left: a curse is upon you! You go from my sight to the eternal fire, that has been ready for you with the Devil and his angels, for when I was hungry you didn't give me anything to eat" (Matt 25:41).

Are there really no better reasons to feed the hungry? The reasons Jesus offers here are worse than inadequate: they diminish the individual; they impoverish the spirit; they promote cravenness; they inject a meanness into human motivation. Far from lifting our hearts from self-regard, they propose self-regard as a motive. But it is an ignoble motive. Reward and punishment — greed and fear — are worse than insufficient as answers to the question "Why?". They deprave moral reasoning. I wish to read the Gospels in another way, but cannot.

I was a little late for the confirmation. So I stood at the back of St Edward's chapel, slightly apart, wishing the best very earnestly for Gordon, respecting the bishop, enjoying the choir and wanting to believe in it all. But I kept remembering Tolstoy's dying words to the priest: "Two and two still do not make five." And this essay makes, I fear, an unsuitable but well-intended confirmation present for Gordon.

France's presidential poll could have more influence on Britain's future than our own general election

Now our independence hinges on the French

European policy: no Prime Minister in Britain can expect the same degree of support. In any case, France is essential to the European Community in a way Britain is not. We may, or may not, wish to be at the heart of Europe; France is the heart of Europe.

Edouard Balladur is less of a nationalist, less of a populist, less of a conservative and more of a conciliator than Jacques Chirac. Whatever the formulations might be, the eventual policies of a Balladur presidency

William Rees-Mogg

would be nearer to the Mitterrand-Kohl-Delors line of "ever closer union". But in his political beliefs and in his feeling for French public opinion, Chirac is committed to President de Gaulle's "Europe des patries" in a way that Balladur is not. Balladur's instinctive sympathy is for a Europe governed by an élite of rational and highly educated civil servants, preferably French: Chirac's instinctive sympathy is for the strength and independence of the French people, though within a European Community. In British terms,

the Balladur position is close to that of Douglas Hurd: there is no precise British equivalent to Chirac: he is a tough-minded European realist, concerned primarily with France's national interest.

If Balladur should be elected, then a Europe of hub and rim, a federal inner core with second-rank outer states, seems likely to emerge from the 1996 conference. There would probably be broad agreement between Balladur, Kohl and Santer. There would certainly be an early and rapid attempt to move towards a single currency. Britain would find it hard to come to terms with this.

If Jacques Chirac does become President, he will be much less likely to be pushed around by Chancellor Kohl, himself another bulldozer, or to allow the French Civil Service to draw him into a federalist European policy. He is a conservative populist, not a bureaucratic centralist. He has said already that he does not believe in a single European currency: it is possible in 1997, though he thinks it desirable by 1999.

A Chirac victory, which is quite likely to be followed later in the year by a Berlusconi-Fini victory in Italy, would create a new opening for Britain: all three nations would then be committed to versions of the Gaullist Europe of the nations. They would be opposed to further movement towards a bureaucratic Euro-

pean superstate. Chancellor Kohl would have to come to terms with such a fundamental shift of European attitudes towards Gaullism.

The likelihood now is that Chirac will indeed win, though it is not at all certain. He has the momentum, he carries less baggage, he is rising in the polls, he is much the better campaigner. Chirac also has much more appeal to the 15 per cent of first-round voters who are expected to support de Villiers or Le Pen. If he reaches the last two, he will very probably be President.

There is an irony in this. The moderate British Conservative Eurosceptics are really British Gaullists. They believe the nation-state is still the real focus of loyalty in Europe, and therefore that it has the real authority. Yet they have a much better chance of winning their cause in the French presidential election than in the next British general election. The future of British nationalism depends now on the success of French nationalism. Within reason, any policies for the 1996 conference which can be agreed between John Major and Jacques Chirac ought to prove acceptable to the Conservative Party in Parliament, and should help to reunite the Conservatives before the general election.

French nationalism, like our own, will sometimes prove to be an awkward bedfellow: the French can have sharp teeth, and why not? Yet given a choice between French independence and bureaucratic European centralism, Britain would always prefer Paris to Brussels. Apart from the single currency, on which he is probably not so sceptical, Chirac as President would fight for the independence of his own nation much more fiercely than Balladur. In fighting for an independent France he would also be fighting for an independent Britain.

Insecurity is the key issue

Peter Riddell says middle-class fears for the future are a potent political force



The next election will be won by the party which addresses the issue of middle-class insecurity. As Kenneth Clarke said last week: "We have to show that we understand the sense of insecurity that some people — particularly in middle England — feel at the moment." Labour has benefited from this disillusionment, enabling Tony Blair to claim that "it is Labour that speaks for moderate, middle-income Britain". But neither party has so far offered convincing policies.

The existence of middle-class insecurity is now widely acknowledged, but its political implications are little appreciated. The scale of the current Labour lead over the Tories — 20, 30 or even 40 points depending on how the polling figures are adjusted — appears so big as to be almost meaningless. But Tory MPs would be unwise to dismiss the findings as just the usual mid-term unpopularity.

Something different is now happening: middle-class desertions from the Tories are at record levels. The middle classes — professional people, managers and white-collar workers — now comprise 43 per cent of the electorate. At the 1992 election they preferred the Tories to Labour by 54 to 22 per cent. Even at Conservative mid-term low points, such as five years ago when the poll tax was introduced, the Tories were still ahead of Labour by 47 to 35 per cent among the middle classes, according to MORI. But the position has now been reversed. The latest MORI poll puts Labour ahead of the Tories by 50 to 30 per cent. In recent months, more readers of *The Times* have said they would vote for Labour than for the Conservatives.

Many middle-class voters will return to the fold on election day. But

that is not automatic. The decaying state of many local Tory associations and the postbags of many MPs confirm the disaffection. There is no shortage of reasons, starting with the recession of the early 1990s, which, for the first time, hit the South, the service sector and middle-class jobs. The recovery of the past two years in manufacturing has hardly affected these people. Continued corporate restructuring and changes in information technology have meant further redundancies. There is no sign of this uncertainty lessening. Southern Tory MPs all have stories of prominent activists in their associations losing managerial jobs in their forties and fifties.

Many people are still caught by the after-effects of the housing boom of the late 1980s and are suffering from the current weak housing market. This has been linked with discontent

RIDDELL ON MONDAY

and challenged previous assumptions about lifetime job security, but the Thatcher and Major Governments have magnified this insecurity by encouraging free markets and competition, and through deregulation in sectors as diverse as financial services and the law.

The Government's view, as outlined by Mr Clarke last week, is that much of the insecurity is unavoidable. Global competition and the resulting uncertainty about job prospects are not going to disappear. But some of this insecurity, according to Mr Clarke, reflects the short-term impact of the reduction in inflation and the adjustment to low increases or no increases, in nominal earnings and property values. People will feel more secure when they are convinced that economic recovery will last. According to this view, governments should concentrate on reducing the

size of the state by limiting public spending and thus creating scope for tax cuts. Mr Clarke recognises that this is not enough, that "people will be more willing to embrace necessary change if they feel that their families will be able to rely on free, high-quality health and education". He argues that these aims can be reconciled through the Government's reforms of public services.

But the Government does not appreciate that some of its own reforms, taking on established institutions such as local government, the professions, the broadcasters or even regimental identities, have contributed to the sense of insecurity, even when the changes have been justified and overdue. Relying on competition and economic growth is not sufficient.

People need reassurance that they are not helpless victims of market forces. This does not mean cushioning or holding up necessary economic changes. Rather, it means assisting training and education, and ensuring that people can protect themselves against dislocation from loss or change of jobs, and that transferable and personal pensions are safe.

Labour has so far exploited discontent rather than offered detailed new plans. The party's schemes for investment, for partnership between the public and private sectors, for getting people off welfare, for small businesses and education are shadowy and vague. Mr Blair talks of Labour "equipping our industry and people for change", but too often party spokesmen resist change in individual companies and sectors when it actually occurs and might involve closures or redundancies.

If the Tories have failed to understand the need for personal security at a time of economic and institutional upheaval, then Labour has yet to show that it recognised the inevitability, indeed desirability, of some of these changes. Mr Blair's New Labour may no longer frighten middle-income Britain, but it cannot count on retaining its support at the elections. Neither, however, can the Tories assume that the middle classes will return to their traditional loyalties. They are disillusioned and worried more than ever before.

Tables turned

BANQUETING HOUSE, Whitehall. Is to be the venue for an unusual gathering this summer. Labour's leader, Tony Blair, and the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Basil Hume, are to sit down for a dinner in June with single mothers from inner-city neighbourhoods and people who sleep rough on the streets.

The event is "The Great Banquet", where people from all walks of life will be able to discuss the problems and future of the capital. Health Minister Gerald Malone, the Director-General of the BBC, John Birt, and the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Paul Condon, are among those who have already accepted invitations, along with business and community leaders from the widest range of backgrounds.

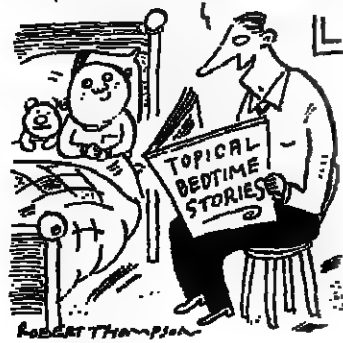
Armani suits and ecclesiastical robes will meet Oxford cast-offs as the assortment of guests tucks in at mixed tables of ten. A hundred smaller banquets will be taking place simultaneously across the city.

The event was the idea of church leaders, who put up the initial funding but it is now being co-

ordinated from a community centre in Bromley-by-Bow, in East London. Big businesses are to pay £1,000 a head, while sellers of the homeless magazine *The Big Issue* will pay just £1. When the talking and dining is done, tramps will join in a shuffle on the strobing dance floor.

"This will be a historic all-party event," said a spokeswoman. "It is hoped the banquet will provide an opportunity for Londoners to make

A LONG, LONG TIME AGO, BARINGS KNEW ABOUT NICK LEESON



a contribution towards the debate about the future of the capital and their local communities, and become involved with creating a vision for London." Cardinal Hume, speaking of the spiritual poverty of the capital, added that the concept of a shared meal was "very profound and very biblical".

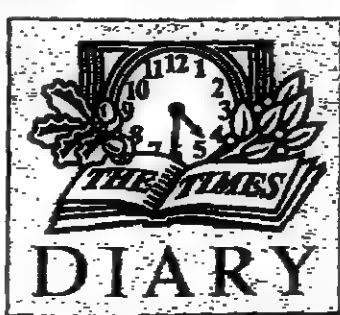
● Tiring of being called Mr Ivana Trump, her fiancé, Riccardo Mazzucchelli, offered guests at a recent party a means of remembering how to pronounce his name. "You have to think of that television presenter, Matthew Kelly."

Prize fighter

GEORGE WALDEN, the Conservative MP for Buckingham and newspaper columnist, who was appointed chairman of the panel of judges for the Booker Prize last week, has pugnacious views on culture, and his chairmanship will, no doubt, be rigorous.

His literary tastes have long been dominated by foreign affairs: he fell in love with Anna Karenina (both novel and heroine) at a tender age, and considers Racine's heroines "very sexy".

He does admire some home-grown writers, notably Salman Rushdie, Jeanette Winterson ("the



earlier works") and Martin Amis. But at the Cheltenham Literary Festival last year he compared culture disparagingly to politics.

"Much of British politics seems to me to be insular, evasive, self-glamourising, class-obsessed, haggard by past or modern convention, self-important to the point of absurdity, in the worst sense provincial and phoney to its soul. It is my impression that much of what goes on in the name of culture in Britain today answers to the same description," he thundered.

Net effect

STEPHEN FRY has not only left his bewildered parents and co-star Rik Mayall behind in his dash for solitude in Bruges, he has also abandoned his Macintosh (the

computer, not the waterproof garment). According to an interview in the current issue of *The Net* magazine, his Macintosh is the "current love of his life".

He is a particular fan of the "Newsgroups" on the Internet, where users debate with and comment to each other. One of these, he explains in the article, is "alt.fan.blackadder", where he is often amused by people's rude remarks about his contribution to the series.

Palms up

GLOBE-TROTTERING thespian Sir Peter Ustinov will tonight tend his Russian family's roots in the Middle East at an exotic ceremony and party for 600 guests at the historic American Colony Hotel in East Jerusalem, a favourite watering-hole for journalists and diplomats, where T.E. Lawrence once stayed.

Sir Peter will be presenting and planting a new palm tree, to replace the pair originally donated to the hostelry in 1904 by his grandfather Baron Plato von Ustinov, an exiled one-time officer in the army of the Tsar, who decided after many years' wandering to settle in the Holy Land.

For decades the two Ustinov trees were familiar landmarks in the hotel's flower-bedecked court-



Waldemar and Wendy: cross-channel culture shock

yard. But in 1948 one became a casualty of the Israeli War of Independence, and last year, the other died of old age having survived a liberal spattering of shrapnel during the Six Day War of 1967.

Art attack

NOT EVERYONE appreciates Sister Wendy Beckett's contribution to the art world. The ubiquitous contemplative nun, who had her own history-of-art television series last year on BBC2 and has another scheduled for BBC1 in 1996, has



upset Waldemar Januszczak, the commissioning editor of arts and music for Channel 4. He has taken a strong dislike to the good sister's new book, *The Story of Painting*. In the spring issue of the *Tate's Art Magazine*, he describes the book, which is the basis for the new series, as "gushing" and "ludicrous", and calls it a "proselytising tract for a certain kind of vague, glowing, feel-good Christianity". He ends by ticking her off for wittering on about haloes.

P.H.S



POVERTY OF THOUGHT

The UN should focus on the absolutely poor

The UN "social summit" which opens in Copenhagen today is the spiritual descendant of a long line of UN conferences in the 1970s, which promised variously to provide jobs, health, education and food "for all" by the year 2000. The UN has learnt nothing in the intervening years about the folly of getting governments to put their names to grandiose goals which have no prospect of realisation. This time they are being asked to "eradicate poverty" — not to reduce it, but to banish it forthwith from the Earth.

The justification for the Copenhagen summit, according to Boutros Boutros Ghali, is that the world faces "a crisis that would have been unimaginable a decade ago: the unravelling of society". More than a billion people live "in crushing poverty", jobs and whole industries are "vanishing", the "security of people in their homes, jobs and communities" is "under siege".

This is the sort of global talk which makes no sense. In the past 50 years, there have been huge gains for billions of people, both in personal prosperity and quality of life, made possible by a sevenfold increase in global output and an even faster expansion in international trade. Average life expectancy has increased, largely thanks to expanded access to basic healthcare, and so has literacy.

More recently, in the past decade, dictatorships in many countries have been replaced by more democratic institutions, accountable government and respect for basic civil liberties. Few societies are untouched by the uncertainties and anxieties of rapid technological change; but this has been an age of unprecedented opportunity and social mobility.

What is not in dispute is that an unacceptably large minority — variously estimated at between one and 1.3 billion — still lives in conditions of desperate poverty. Population growth in many countries has outpaced wealth creation; and in some, notably in Africa, almost everyone has been impoverished by misgovernment, war or natural disasters. Anti-poverty strategies are

notoriously difficult to implement — they tend to reach the relatively poor, but not those without the bare means of subsistence, whose children suffer brain damage through malnutrition and die from the lack of safe drinking water.

Copenhagen should have concentrated on these, the "absolutely poor". The UN has instead cast the net so wide as to embrace Bangladesh in the East End of London — who may be poor by British standards but who are, by comparison with a landless widow in Bangladesh itself, the affluent of the earth. Instead of focusing on unemployment at the bottom of the ladder — where almost any work would be eagerly grabbed — the proposed declaration sets "adequately remunerated" jobs as the aim. The priority ought to be bootstraps for the really poor; the UN blurs this already difficult task by stressing equality as a social goal.

Governments will be asked to overhaul their social policies by next year, in conformity with the following targets for the year 2000, only five years hence: reducing child and infant mortality rates by one third of 1990 levels; halving maternal mortality; halving both severe and moderate child malnutrition; providing universal primary healthcare; and providing "affordable and adequate shelter for all". Twenty years have been allowed for universal primary education — even in Ethiopia, where enrolment in 1991 was 25 per cent.

This is so tall an order as to lack all credibility. Governments will spend most of this week arguing about how much "new money" in overseas aid the rich are prepared to put up — watched by no fewer than 2,400 non-governmental organisations. Buried in the Copenhagen documents are some good ideas — notably, legal and social frameworks which give women better access to education, family planning, property rights and credit. But the UN has once again made the Utopian best the enemy of the good. To parents who do not know whether their children will eat tomorrow, the Copenhagen summit will seem cruelly remote.

THE WILL AND THE HOPE

A message of moral optimism from the Chief Rabbi

The Chief Rabbi's new book, *Faith in the Future*, is one of the most significant declarations made by a religious leader in this country for many years. The reputation of Dr Jonathan Sacks as a scholar and spokesman of the Jewish community is already well-established. His book, extracted in *The Times* today and tomorrow, deserves to be read by all who have an interest in the moral dilemmas facing contemporary society.

Faith in the Future is, in part, a lucid account of modern Judaism and the questions facing Jews today. It celebrates the survival of this "stubborn people" through the centuries in the face of horrific adversity, a survival encapsulated in the words of the Psalm, *Lo amut ki ehyeh*: "I will not die, but I will live". In a more general sense, the book also demonstrates the role that religious discourse can still play in resolving the ethical problems of an increasingly secular age. It approaches these problems from the vantage-point of an ancient faith. But it speaks to the widest possible audience.

Too often, those who comment on moral issues fall prey to post-modern pessimism or defer to the relativist argument that all ethical positions are equally valid. The Chief Rabbi avoids both of these pitfalls. He dismisses the famous claim that we are somehow less moral than our ancestors. The proliferation of media alone has increased our awareness of suffering and injustice around the world; technology and wealth creation have increased our capacity to address such problems. And yet, as the Chief Rabbi observes, we are not content.

At the heart of his argument is the conviction that the principles of the Enlightenment are insufficient for a civilised society. Communities and traditions are, he suggests, "inescapably local and idiosyncratic... they simply failed to register on the Enlightenment map, with its obsessive focus on what was universal and therefore rational". The guardrails which save us from moral and social disaster — notably the family — have indeed been weakened. The dramatic growth of the State has meant, as Dr Sacks puts it, "the erosion of our human environment". We have seen the community displaced by the State and the replacement of morality by politics. Marriage and parenthood have become contractual and conditional. We live in a world "without a moral compass".

The most uplifting aspect of this book, however, is its profound optimism and rejection of moral nostalgia. The Chief Rabbi remains confident that individuals are capable of taking moral decisions, and are not simply the puppets of social, economic and political forces. It has become fashionable, for example, to see the family as a socio-economic unit. Dr Sacks, in contrast, sees it as "first and foremost, a moral institution. It is made or unmade by our choices." If there is one thing we can change by our own decisions, he writes, "it is the way we act as spouses and parents". This is as challenging a message as it is uplifting.

To argue that human will is more important a force in the world than social circumstance is to make grave demands of people. But it is also to remind us that we need not despair.

MANCHESTER UNMATCHED

The peculiar pleasure of a spectacular victory

Manchester United's 9-0 defeat of Ipswich at Old Trafford on Saturday was a rich mine of sporting statistics. Not since United beat Wolverhampton Wanderers by the same margin in 1892 had the team won such a victory in a league match; other enthusiasts compared the game to United's 10-0 defeat of Anderlecht in the European Cup in 1956. The match was also Ipswich's worst loss since its 10-1 destruction by Fulham in 1964. It was the most comprehensive defeat suffered by any team since the Premier League was set up. Yet the true splendour of the game had little to do with the record books.

Rarely are whitewashes good for sport. Few now remember or enjoyed at the time John McEnroe's humiliation of the underdog Chris Lewis in the 1983 men's final at Wimbledon. The overwhelming of England by Australia in the recent Ashes series was a sorry affair, an embarrassing mismatch which cast a shadow over a fine tradition of competition between the two cricketing nations. Great sport generally depends upon near-parity, the chance that either competitor or team might triumph. It is this that made Bjorn Borg's five-set defeat of McEnroe at Wimbledon in 1980 probably the greatest tennis match ever played, or the battles on the track between Coe, Ovett and Cram so memorable.

Occasionally, however, sport transcends competition and becomes a pure celebration of unmatchable excellence. At such mo-

ments, the perfection of the victor's performance becomes more important than the conquest of the other side. It does not matter that Brian Lara was playing against Durham when he scored 501 not out last year; or that England were the immediate casualties of his world record Test match score of 375. Nor do many recall who Sobers was facing when he hit six sixes in one over. Nor is it important who won the silver medal in the long jump event at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics, when Bob Beamon jumped almost two feet further than any human being in history. Such achievements are remembered for their uniqueness. The desire of sports fans for an even match is overtaken by the primal desire to see a non-parity in action.

So it was on Saturday. Ipswich's failure was merely the backdrop to an extraordinary performance by the Premiership title holders. Had the losing side played worse, United might well have scored 15 or 16 goals. All concerned had the sense that they had taken part in a unique event: "as close to perfection as you can get", in the words of United's manager. Perfect football happens only when 11 men work in complete harmony to enhance and complement each other's talents. Such a spectacle prompts not only pity for the loser and admiration for the winner. It also inspires unqualified awe at the athletic heights to which human beings occasionally aspire.

Need for restraint in top people's pay

From Professor Lord Wedderburn of Charlton, QC, FBA

Sir, You report the "growing public anger about boardroom excesses" on the pay and perks of executives of privatised industries (March 1). Company law suggests one simple step which might improve the position.

Since 1980, the Companies Acts have required a board of directors to have regard to the interests of "the company's employees in general as well as those of its members". This and other existing measures, in the law and in company practice, have not been seen adequately to restrain the approach of directors and executives to their salaries, bonuses and options in some companies, even where those matters are dealt with (as today they invariably are in public companies) through a special remuneration committee.

The logical step now would be to require every large company to have such a committee and to include in its membership a given percentage of employees of the company, appointed or elected through representative machinery.

Recent events suggest that the use of machinery of this kind on the pay and perks of directors and top executives might lead to greater social responsibility and wider consensus, as well as being a useful way of demonstrating on this issue a proper regard to the interests of the employees.

Yours sincerely,
BILL WEDDERBURN,
29 Woodside Avenue, N6,
March 3.

From Mr Simon Marquis

Sir, The telephone-number earnings of Barings's man in Singapore rather put in perspective the pay of some of our captains of industry, and the current rumour that surrounds it. The Prime Minister should not think interventionist, legislative thoughts about top people's pay — however "distasteful" he finds it (report, March 1). He should trust in what his party stands for, the free market.

When the remuneration committees and non-executive directors see that customers and suppliers and shareholders as well as employees regard the more excessive rises as bad value for money, they will rein back — in self-interest.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON MARQUIS
(Editorial Director),
Marketing Publications Ltd,
30 Lancaster Gate, W2,
March 1.

From Mr N. G. Parker

Sir, The broker in his 20s who may have caused the Barings collapse has been reported as receiving an annual salary of around £200,000, plus bonus of £2.5 million. Likewise two executives who recently left one merchant bank for another were said to be going for a remuneration package in seven figures (report, Business, February 9). Mr Cedric Brown of British Gas and the chief executives of other privatised utilities must feel justifiably aggrieved at their public pillorying for much lower total rewards. They do at least produce something that we all use and, by and large in my experience, do it much better than the nationalised institutions they inherited.

Yours faithfully,
N. G. PARKER,
Combe Lane Farm,
Wormley, Godalming, Surrey,
February 28.

From Mr Ian Paul

Sir, The Government says that pay must be determined by the market, and funded by productivity increases. There is a shortage of doctors, teachers and nurses, and each of these groups is now doing more work in the same time than ever before. Both productivity measures and market forces would suggest they deserve rises significantly above the few per cent recently announced.

In contrast, not one of the heads of the privatised utilities had to reapply for their own jobs at the time of their large pay increases. One suspects that the market was bypassed because the individuals concerned would not have been able to compete. It is certainly the case that their awards were not funded by their own productivity increases.

Is this the unacceptable face of the something-for-nothing society?

Yours faithfully,
IAN PAUL,
44 Kingston Road,
Poole, Dorset,
March 1.

From Mr Mark Rimmell

Sir, It would be interesting to know if any of the executives who have recently received enormous increases in pay, bonuses and share options from "independent" assessors themselves sit on "independent" boards to assess the pay bonuses and share options of other executives.

A list of the cross-fertilisation might be quite revealing.

Yours faithfully,
MARK RIMMELL,
12a St Johns Grove, N19,
March 1.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Peanington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Global warming fears for Antarctica

From Mr Robert Mann

Sir, The dramatic disintegration of the Larsen ice shelf in Antarctica (report, February 28) should set alarm bells ringing amongst those in the scientific community who stubbornly deny any link to global warming.

I have just returned from a visit to the Antarctic peninsula during which I saw many thousands of penguins lying on the ice, desperately attempting to ally the effects of a blazing sun. Biologists told me that the penguin population has declined by half in a decade due to lack of their main food, krill. The krill feed on algae beneath the pack-ice and each successive year there is less of it; islands once frozen solid in sea-ice for nine months of the year are now ice-free all year round.

Further melting of the ice shelves will not only be catastrophic for the Antarctic ecosystem, including the whales and seals, but ultimately for those of us living just above sea level.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT MANN,
4 Hessel Road, Ealing, W13,
March 1.

From Mr Matthew Spencer

Sir, The "no regrets" policy on climate change advocated in your leading article of February 28, "Hot water", is predicated on a calculation of the risk we face from this threat.

The creation of an enormous iceberg in the Antarctic resonates alarmingly with the implications of last month's European floods. In both cases one-in-a-hundred-years weather events have occurred twice in the last five. A simple analysis of probabilities suggests that the risks of change at faster rates than those predicted by the scientific advisers to the United Nations Climate Convention have increased.

By failing to back the commonsense proposals put forward last September by the Alliance of Small Island States for 20 per cent cuts in CO₂ emissions, the UK Government has exposed the gulf between the risks of climate instability and the reality of its own shabby climate programme.

Yours faithfully,
MATTHEW SPENCER
(Atmosphere campaigner),
Greenpeace UK,
Canbyville Villas, NI,
March 1.

From Dr G. C. L. Bertram

Sir, On February 24 you reported the sad fate, through sickness, of the last Antarctic sledge dogs, banished under unfortunate new legislation to Hudson Bay. Exactly 50 years ago we, of the British Graham Land Expedition, 1934-37, were forced with the greatest sadness of heart, and with tears in our

eyes, to shoot the final 80 of our splendid working dogs when we finally left that then totally empty continent.

Our dogs had mostly been born in Antarctica and had been our friends through arduous sledging and geographical discovery. But in RY Peninsula, still with exploratory voyaging to complete, could not possibly carry them all as further deck cargo. And to feed those dogs for thousands of further miles at sea was utterly impossible away from the local supply of seals which had fed them and the 16 of us for the previous two years. So shoot them we had to, one by one, above a precipitous place where nothing could be seen or heard before or after each shot.

Five dogs was as many as we felt we could take home by sea. One of them, Salo, had worked in Greenland a few years before, then lived in England a while before sailing south in *Penola* in 1934. In Antarctica he had worked with splendid strength on long journeys and fathered many pups. So he came north as an elderly gentleman of great experience to live out his life peacefully in southern England. His final public appearance was in 1937, on the occasion of my delivery of one of the annual children's Christmas lectures at the Royal Geographical Society. At its end I had Salo spring upon the table before me and exhibit himself to the large assembly. Applause was great.

I indeed we loved our dogs with ever-conscious affection, and I still mourn for them in old age, these 50 years later.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN BERTRAM,
Ricardo's, Giffarth,
Petworth, West Sussex,
March 1.

From Mrs Joan Marsh

Sir, Having visited the American research base at McMurdo Sound in Antarctica last year, I would suggest that far more damage is being done to the environment in the name of "scientific research" than ever could be done by the huskies which have died in the Arctic, after being evicted from their Antarctic homes.

There are the diesel fumes of a fire engine that is constantly running in the event of fire (a most feared thing in the Antarctic), visiting fuel ships, supply aeroplanes, rusting junk under the water, to name a few.

Huskies had become natural inhabitants of Antarctica and posed no threat whatsoever. Expelling them was conservationism gone mad.

Yours faithfully,
JOAN MARSH,
13 Lancaster Drive,
Clitheroe, Lancashire,
February 25.

And some there be...

From Mr Richard W. B. Coley

Sir, Mr Richard Langley (letter, March 2) is being unduly modest. Whilst he may not qualify for an obituary in your august publication on his (we hope) far-distant death, he can in no way be described as an under-achiever if he is successful in getting a letter published in *The Times*.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD W. B. COLEY,
33 Ridgeway, Ottery St Mary, Devon,
March 3.

From Mrs Kathleen Adams

Sir, May I suggest a few words of comfort to Mr Richard Langley with the last line of George Eliot's *Middlemarch*?

... for the growing good of the world is

Hunting the fox

From Mrs Antonia Harvie

Sir, Mrs Sarah Crossing says (letter, March 3) that the fox "runs for his life unaware of his crime".

In saying so she, no doubt unwittingly, makes good Frederick Forsyth's warning of the dangers of anthropomorphism ("Why the fox needs the hunt", March 2). She is, of course, correct that the fox is unaware of his crime; thus he will not repent or otherwise mend his ways.

If it is appropriate to resort to concepts of guilt and innocence amongst animals, consider the position of the chicken or the lamb. Then consider whether it is fair to cull the fox.

Yours faithfully,
ANTONIA HARVIE,
Windmills,
Hurstbourne Tarrant, Hampshire,
March 3.

'Definitive' Desmond

From Mr Ned Sherrin

Sir, Matt Wolf ("Britannia rules the waves", Arts, February 28) was rash to acclaim Glenn Close as the "definitive" Norma Desmond in *Sunset Boulevard*, since it would appear from his article that he did not see the definitive Desmond, Elaine Paige, at the Adelphi last year.

Perhaps he should have consulted Benedict Nightingale, who reviewed Miss Paige's performance for you on December 20 in such lyrical terms.

Sincerely,
NED SHERRIN,
4 Cornwall Mansions,
Ashburnham Road, SW10,
February 28.

Appeal rights if law miscarries

From the Archbishop of Westminster

Sir, As one greatly concerned about recent miscarriages of justice I warmly welcome the Criminal Appeal Bill to establish a Criminal Cases Review Commission (report and leading article, February 24). The Bill is due to receive its second reading in the Commons on March 6.

This must mark the beginning of a new era in the handling of miscarriages of justice cases. But that requires the commission to be, and be seen to be, a strong body independent of Government, the courts and the police, capable of fulfilling effectively, and with a sense of urgency, the tasks of considering and investigating allegations of miscarriages of justice when appeal rights have been exhausted.

Unfortunately, it seems that the Bill, as drafted, falls some way short of delivering this. In particular, it seems to make the new commission too dependent on the police. It appears to provide no reserve power for the commission to instigate and carry out investigations using only its own suitably qualified staff, and it appears to leave the commission with insufficient powers effectively to plan, direct and supervise police investigations carried out on its behalf.

The establishment of the commission, recommended by the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice, could go a long way to restoring public confidence in British justice. But this can only happen if it is given all the powers necessary to do its job.

Yours faithfully,
BASIL HUME,
Archbishop's House,
Westminster, SW1,
March 3.

Visas for visitors

From the Under Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Sir, Mr Victor Callender (letter, March 2) said his forecast that "... discontinuance of the right of appeal would make [entry clearance officers] more overbearing ..." had proved correct.

When Parliament abolished the right of appeal for those refused visit visas it created, in the same Act, an independent monitor of those refusals. Dame Elizabeth Anson published her first report as independent monitor in December 1994. In it she said

... in the great majority of applications which result in refusal those refusals are correct in law... The absence of a right of appeal against their [entry clearance officers'] decisions does not appear to have changed the behaviour of ECOs after July 26, 1993 [the date of appeals abolition] and indeed, from the evidence in the posts I visited, the ECOs have recognised that extra care must now be taken before refusing an application. The number of refusals of applications with no right of appeal has declined...

The evidence does not support Mr Callender's assertion.

Yours sincerely,
TONY BALDRY,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,
King Charles Street, SW1,
March 2.

Fear and flying

From Mr Ted Gorman

Sir, I hope that the statement from Flight Lieutenant Jo Salter, the RAF's first woman Tornado pilot, that "I never feel fear" (report, February 22), is an example of journalistic licence and not a true reflection of how she approaches her hard-won (and no doubt deserved) career as a combat pilot.

Throughout a 17-year long career as a navigator in the Royal Air Force I flew with scores of pilots. Most were of average ability, a few had outstanding flying and airman skills, even fewer were of a questionable standard. But what they all had in common was a healthy fear for their aircraft and the environment in which we were operating, for this gave them just the degree of respect needed to ensure that they and I stood the best chance of returning safe and sound to fly another day.

I wish Jo Salter well in her chosen career but urge her to remember the old saw: "There are old pilots and there are bold pilots, but there are very few old, bold pilots."

Yours faithfully,
TED GORMAN,
12 Solway Rise,
Dronfield Yorkshire,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire,
February 22.

Words count

From Mr John Ashby

Sir, Young's *Analytical Biblical Concordance* (1879) lists textual references to individual words used in the Protestant Bible. Five columns of references to the word *no* appear, but only four references to *yes*. This imbalance may be related to there being 25 columns devoted to *man* and only four columns to *woman*. Similarly, *son* occupies 26 columns, but *daughter* only five. However, and most pertinent in my view to Northern Ireland's hopes for peace, the two words *give* and *take* each fill exactly 16 columns.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ASHBY,
35 Bath Street,
Leek, Staffordshire,
March 4.

COMMANDER EDWARD SWORDER

It being now nearly 12 o'clock another testing train was prepared to be taken through the tube. It consisted of the three engines, the 200 tons of coal, and from 30 to 40 railway carriages containing between 600 to 700 passengers packed together as closely as figs in a basket, all so clamorous and eager to "go through the tube," that it became impossible to accommodate them.

At length, obediently to a long wild whistle, the train glided slowly into the interior, saluted by a loud burst of "Rule Britannia" from an array of Liverpool seamen up aloft in the towers at the entrance, on the front of which, cut deeply in the stone, were the words "Erected Anno Domini, 1850: Robert Stephenson, Engineer."

NEWS

Bonus demands in Barings deal

Two Dutch banking rivals were locked in negotiations last night to buy Barings as concern grew about an alleged lack of control at the top of the stricken merchant bank during the disastrous Singapore dealings by Nick Leeson.

A last-minute stumbling block was understood to be the demand by senior executives for bonuses totalling more than £100 million. Pages 1, 5, 44

Scots threaten Clause 4 crusade

Tony Blair is expected to warn the Scottish Labour Party that it could damage the movement's prospects of power if it opposes his crusade to ditch Clause 4. The Labour leader will deliver a tough message on Friday shortly before the party it casts a vote that could represent the most serious setback to Mr Blair since he took over in July. Page 1, 18

Dean's denial

The Dean of Lincoln, the Very Rev Brandon Jackson, told his cathedral congregation that he had never had an affair with a woman former verger. Page 1

Peseta plunges

The European Union's Monetary Committee held an emergency session after a record low for the Spanish peseta and fears that Madrid could seek a devaluation or leave the ERM. Page 1

Tory dismay

Senior Conservatives appealed for party unity as research suggested they could lose more than 1,000 seats in May's local elections. Page 2

Church militant

A clergyman who conducted Holy Communion for five break-away Norfolk parishes described them as "the roast beef of old England... all that is best in the English character and the English countryside". Page 3

Fossil drain

Valuable fossils may be lost to museums abroad because they lack the protection given to works of art. Page 6

Adams cash row

Conservative MPs voiced anger over claims that Gerry Adams might win substantial compensation from Britain for years of being barred from visiting the mainland. Page 2

Bars and stars in good jalls guide

Prisoners will soon be able to consult a consumer's guide to see what sort of facilities they should be getting and the best place to go for a transfer. Oxford University Press, better known for dictionaries and academic works, will next month publish *The Prisoners' Handbook*, compiled by an inmate serving seven years for armed robbery. Page 1

Plane safety

Two investigations into the maintenance of Britain's commercial airline fleet have been launched amid concern over mechanics' safety standards. Page 7

Tenants on trial

Tenants moving into a housing estate with a reputation for drugs, burglary and violence are being put on six months' "probation" in a pioneer scheme designed to cut crime. Page 8

Poverty's fetters

A newborn baby lying strangely still in sub-Saharan Africa and his illiterate young mother personify many of the problems facing the UN Social Summit in Copenhagen. Page 11

Croatian aid

European foreign ministers meet today to see whether extending aid to Croatia can avert a United Nations pull-out. Page 12

Guiding spirit

China's glib paramount leader Deng Xiaoping was the ghost at the feast when the country's parliament, the National People's Congress, held its inaugural session. Page 11

Race of rivals

Edouard Balladur went on the offensive as opinion polls showed him trailing his Gaullist rival Jacques Chirac for the first time in France's presidential election campaign. Page 13



Supporters of South Africa's Inkatha Freedom Party dancing at a rally yesterday after Chief Buthelezi suspended its boycott of parliament. He gave President Mandela a month to arrange international mediation over the powers of provinces. Page 11

BUSINESS

Barings: ING, the Dutch bank, was favourite to buy the collapsed merchant bank as talks continued between the administrators and would-be buyers. Page 44

Currency crisis: Central banks moved to halt the dollar's slide and the European Union Monetary Committee met in emergency session. Page 44

Power surge: Shares in National Power and Powergen are expected to achieve an instant premium today after confirmation that the £4 billion sale has been heavily over-subscribed. Page 44

Wellcome deadline: No sign yet of the rumoured counterbidder for Wellcome as Glaxo's £9 billion offer for the drugs group nears its Wednesday closing date. Page 44

ARTS

Princely reception: The artist "formerly known as Prince" is back in Britain in an unfamiliar musical guise. The Wembley Arena crowd still adored him. Page 15

Book bonanza: The Times Penguin Festival of Fiction is leaving its way across the country throughout March. Kate Bassett catches up with it in London. Page 15

Violent ballet: Why did Henry Purcell write a series of masterpieces for a defunct musical ensemble? Richard Morrison solves a 300-year-old puzzle. Page 14

Sussex line-up: In the first year of their double act as joint bosses of the Chichester Festival Theatre, Sir Derek Jacobi and Duncan Weldon unveil a star-studded package for the summer. Page 15

FEATURES

Rebel call: Old-style propaganda of the far Left is luring pupils to "Pollock Free State", a protest against a Scottish motorway. Page 17

Child's play? The task of finding the right nanny in New York is anything but, reports Ben Macintyre. Page 17

EDUCATION

State rooms: The idea of state boarding schools is attracting more interest from parents. Page 37

MIND AND MATTER

Cold comfort: An iceberg the size of Majorca has formed in the Antarctic in just a few weeks. Is it a clue to global warming? Page 16

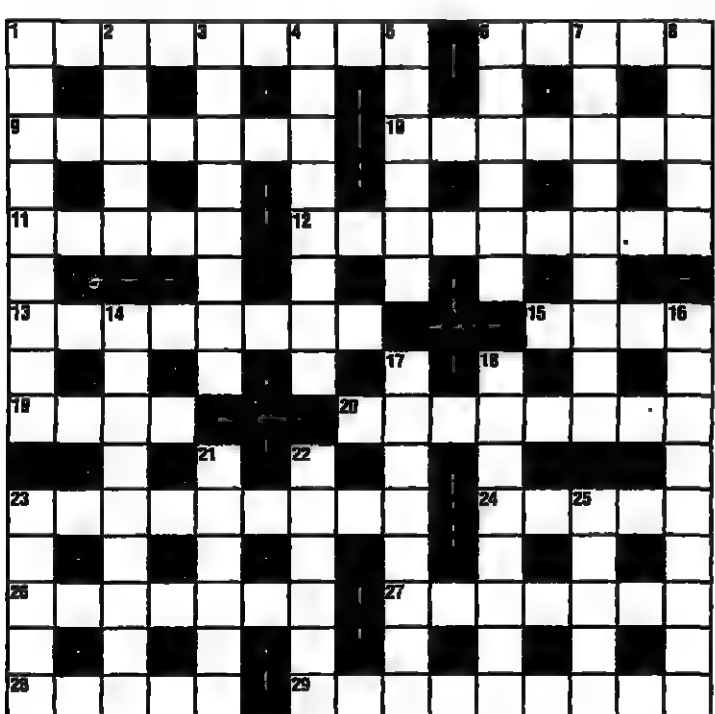
TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES
■ OH SUSANNAH
Susannah York, a West End star, takes to the fringe

■ DUTY FREE AT 20p
How to pick up £20 worth of duty free for the price of The Times



THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,795



ACROSS

- 1 Flippant about a point — a point which appears relevant (9)
- 6 Barker, civic leader or soldier? (5)
- 9 Gain the utmost benefit from enterprise (7)
- 10 Masseux working for a Renaissance man (7)
- 11 She's held back by her vain attitude (5)
- 12 Allowing of sales-pitch communication (9)
- 13 23 ac people contest (4,4)
- 15 Make all adjustments necessary in the current recession (4)
- 19 See trainees do nothing strenuous (4)
- 20 Twists and bamboozles without infraction of the law (8)
- 23 Former coppers have a just claim, that's clear (9)
- 24 Smoother means of transport (5)

KNOCKKNO

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 19,794 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will receive a bottle of Knockkno, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky and a fine leather credit card wallet.

DOWN

- 26 Send to examine the evidence (7)
- 27 A number take a cereal from sheer greed (7)
- 28 View only some of the play (5)
- 29 Specially-designed chalet — it's to be used for sporting activities (9)
- 1 Ten fill up maybe as there's ample (9)
- 2 Tear over to a place in Northern England (5)
- 3 "Exaltation" is one work to the French taste (8)
- 4 Access will bring pleasure here (8)
- 5 The woman playing Hamlet (6)
- 6 Rows within the Church would be unseemly (6)
- 7 What prompts one to retain a balance (9)
- 8 The matter is to go to court (5)
- 14 Pay for toleration (9)
- 16 Let assets go to pot, which is not comme il faut (9)
- 17 Provision for basic refreshment (8)
- 18 Put wise about the highest cash deduction (8)
- 21 Giving the little page an increase in pay, express appreciation (6)
- 22 Meeting points (6)
- 23 Clips broad-leaved plants (5)
- 25 The defence offered "in another place" (5)

Times Two Crossword, page 44

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Dorset, Hampshire & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire	705
Berkshire, Bucks, Oxon	706
Bedfordshire & Essex	707
Northamptonshire, Cambs	708
West Mid & Sh. Glam & Owent	709
Shropshire, Hereford & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincoln & Humbersides	713
Derby & Power	714
Gloucestershire & Chyld	715
N.W. England	716
W. & S. Wales & Dorset	717
N. E. England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S.W. Scotland	720
W. Central Scotland	721
North-east Scotland & Borders	722
E. Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E. Highlands	724
N.W. Scotland	725
Caithness, Orkney & Shetland	726
Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadwork information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
Area within M25	732
Between M25 & M40	733
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BOXING



25

Prince or
pretender?
A new star
rises in
the north

SPORT FOR ALL



33

Time runs
short to
prepare
for the
long run

RUGBY UNION



30

Scots set
up grand
finale
against
England

SCHOOLS SPORT



29

Cross
country
brings
mud, sweat
and tears

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY MARCH 6 1995

MANCHESTER UNITED'S PERFECT DAY, GOAL BY GOAL



1-0: Keane, 15 minutes



2-0: Cole, 19 minutes



3-0: Cole, 37 minutes



4-0: Cole, 53 minutes



5-0: Hughes, 55 minutes



Andy Cole acclaims his five-goal haul at Old Trafford. Match report and other football, pages 26 to 29



6-0: Hughes, 59 minutes



7-0: Cole, 65 minutes



8-0: Ince, 72 minutes



9-0: Cole, 87 minutes

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£15,500	10.5%	130.67	167.67	205.83
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£5,000	11.9%	47.40	58.02	69.94

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Rethink needed on second game and replays

When his big moment came, the BBC's man in the Murray field "tunnel" did not flinch. The first question to the victorious Gavin Hastings may have been lost in a garbled sound link, but the second — the one that did for poor Bob Humphrys at Cardiff Arms Park a fortnight ago — was crystal clear. "You do make things difficult for yourselves, but having conceded that early try you came back so superbly in the second half."

All right, whether that technically qualifies as a question is a matter of some serious grammatical debate, but it had, as Bill McLaren might say, "done the needful". In short, it had not given away the result of the Ireland v France game before the highlights were shown — nor did

any of the questions that followed. The rugby-watching nation breathed a collective sigh of relief. It was back to the five nations as normal. Some considerable preparation had clearly gone into ensuring the moment passed smoothly. McLaren and the impressively impartial Phil Bennett had already waxed celtically lyrical for some minutes after the game before they handed back to Steve Rider, who promptly invited John Jeffrey and Nigel Walker to do the same.

As a result it was a full five minutes after the final whistle before Mark Souster finally began his crucial, faith-restoring interview with Hastings. For a brief moment or two, I did wonder whether BBC Scotland might have recorded it — just to make sure. But I'm



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

being unfair. However, with only one more weekend of this year's five nations to go, I think it is fair to ask whether the BBC's coverage has been everything we might reasonably expect. The answer must be no.

The first reason concerns the old argument about whether each weekend's two internationals should be played on the same day or consecutively — either on the Saturday and Sunday of the same weekend or spread out

singly over consecutive Saturdays. The answer to the problem, of course, lies with the respective unions not the BBC, but the corporation does nothing to improve things by relegating the second game, however thrilling, to an also-ran.

This did in spades on Saturday by fielding the unfamiliar — and frankly rather unexciting — commentary voice of Jim Neilly over RTE's pictures of Ireland v France. I appreciate that the prime time demands of Saturday

teatime rule out showing both matches back-to-back on BBC1, but if two internationals per Saturday is to remain the norm, surely the BBC should be giving serious thought to showing the second game "as live" on BBC2.

Such coverage would lead naturally into the evening highlights package that international Saturdays demand, but don't get, and would counter the growing argument that while *Rugby Special* may be a very splendid thing, it is shown a day too late.

Such a package would also allow the growing number of articulate current and former players (the cancelled racing from Newbury certainly gave Nigel Walker an extended opportunity to show he is a star in the making) to talk through the replays that are

difficult during live coverage. Rugby replays are the bane of a television director's life. At their best — such as yesterday's superb hand-held footage of Kenny Logan's try-making tip-toe down the line, they are instant history. At their worst, they get in the way of live action which has often resumed before the replay ends.

But worse still, on reflection, is the missing replay, the incident that got away. Too often this season, the BBC's cameras have missed vital, off-the-ball action which is unforgivable. It is not enough to have the otherwise splendid McLaren muttering about "a bit of hanky-panky" or "a little kerfuffle"; we need to see the infringements. If that means more cameras, then more cameras it must be.

Guildford advance with two victories

GUILDFORD achieved a double triumph in the men's national hockey league by defeating Hounslow 2-1 on Saturday and Southgate 4-3 yesterday to advance to second place in the first division (Sydney Friskin writes). Guildford's virile approach put them 3-2 ahead of Southgate by half-time with two goals by Markham and one by Jennings. Jennings increased the lead from a penalty stroke in the 47th minute and, although Sean Kerry converted a short corner for Southgate, their counter-offensive was beaten back by Guildford with Friday making several smart saves. Stourport, after holding Southgate goalless on Saturday, drew 2-2 with Teddington yesterday. Twelve goals in two days have virtually assured Slough of the premier division championship in the women's national league (Alix Ramsay writes). Slough defeated Leicester 4-1 on Saturday and Chelmsford 8-2 yesterday.

Martin reigns supreme

SQUASH: Cassandra Jackman emerged once again from the semi-finals of the Guernsey Open, at the Kings Club in St Peter Port, as the leading challenger to Michelle Martin, of Australia (Colin McQuillan writes). But in the final yesterday she showed, just as she did in the World Open final at the same venue last October, that challenging is a far cry from overcoming. Martin was majestic, dismissing her compatriot Sarah FitzGerald 9-5, 9-3, 9-6 in a 35-minute semi-final on Saturday. Yesterday she took just a minute longer for a scoreline of 9-7, 9-6, 9-1 against Jackman, who defeated the British champion, Suzanne Horner, 3-2 to reach the final.

Young stands firm

CRICKET: A determined half-century by the opener, Bryan Young, guided New Zealand to 94 for one at the end of the second day of the Test match against South Africa in Auckland yesterday. Young, undefeated on 62 at the close, showed great patience and technique against the tourists' pace attack. Allan Donald bowled with venom and Fanie de Villiers with great accuracy. Scoreboard, page 32

Preston spring upset

BOWLS: Preston, a Brighton-based club, have won the Denny Cup for the first time, upstaging the favourites and five-times former champions, Cyphers, at Bedford. Preston won the final 77-66. There was another win for bowlers from Sussex in the women's national indoor fours championship when the Arun club from Bognor Regis beat Thornaby at Northampton.

Williams's double win

CYCLING: David Williams, Britain's city centre race amateur champion, had to "win" the first major road race of the season twice. Williams sprinted across the line first in the Kirkby-Soens 50-mile handicap, only to find he had misjudged the finish which was a further 1.6 miles distant on the Aintree circuit. He then hung on to win by a length from Julian Ramsbottom.

Imperial success

ROWING: Imperial College beat Oxford by 12 seconds in the unofficial Head of the River race on Saturday. Imperial, who beat Oxford in the same event in 1992 when Oxford went on to win the Boat Race, produced a higher rate than their opponents. The race was organised by Oxford after the cancellation of the official Reading Head, a decision taken after advice from the National Rivers Authority.

Steelers narrow gap

ICE HOCKEY: Nottingham Panthers' lead in the premier division is becoming tenuous. An 8-2 defeat by File Flyers and Sheffield Steelers' 1-4 win over Whitby Warriors leaves the Panthers two points ahead but the Steelers have a game in hand. Bracknell Bees upset Durham Wasps 9-4 for only their sixth win of the season. Trafford Metros kept their first division play-off hopes alive, drawing with Slough Jets.

Pajot in deep water

YACHTING: French hopes of reaching the semi-finals of the Louis Vuitton Challenge rounds of the America's Cup have almost certainly foundered off San Diego. Mark Pajot's France 3, supported largely by French Government tax credits, lost against Nippon on Saturday in what was effectively a decider for the final place in the next round. Pajot must win three of his next four races to advance.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 29
OLD GRAY HEAD
(a) "Shoot if you will this old gray head! But spare your country's flag she said." This is from *Barbara Frietage*, that firesome woman who wrapped herself in Old Glory and then dared the rebels to fire.
JEMMY GROVE
(a) "All in the merry month of May! When green buds were a-swelling! Young Jemmy Grove on his deathbed lay! For love of Barbara Allen." An *Anon* ballad of late date and style, known to Sam Peppys.
BRIG O'DREAD
(a) This comes from that weird ballad *The Lyke Wake Dirge*. The journey lies through the "whiny mair" a moor of force or force, via the Brig o' Dread to Purgatory. In part it is derogatory. "From whiny mair when thou may'st pass! Every night and alle! To Brig o' Dread thou com'st at last! And Chris receive thy soul!"
COO-MY-DOO
(a) "O Coo-my-Doo me love so true! If ye'll come down to me! Ye'll have a case of good red gold! Instead of simple trea..." From *The Earl of Mar's Daughter*, *Anon*, of course. Coo was a handsome prince they settled down for 23 years when a rich sailor appeared. However, he was seen off by seven swans. 24 storks and Coo-my-Doo, all transformed warriors from his mother's court.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rd3: Bxg5 2 Rh3: Bxh3 3 Rxb1: Kxh1 4 Qxb1 checkmate.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)	Condition	Plus in report	Weather (5pm)	Local snow
	L	U	Rate	Off	
ANDORRA					
Soldeu	60	120	good powder	good snow	-2 5/3
			(Great skiing but flat light outside, no sun)		
AUSTRIA					
Mayrhofen	5	100	good	good	-6 4/3
			(Excellent skiing on all slopes, with sun and wind)		
Obergurgl	60	140	good powder	good	-1 4/2
			(Excellent conditions, sun and wind)		
Schladming	40	130	good powder	good	-4 4/3
			(Wonderful skiing under blue sky, sun and wind)		
FRANCE					
Alpe d'Huez	215	440	good powder	good	0 5/3
			(Sunny start followed by more snow, good sun and wind)		
Avonnes	300	390	good powder	good	-4 5/3
			(Great snow and sunny but cold weather)		
Courchevel	215	375	good powder	good	-1 5/2
			(Superb powder skiing, sun and wind in perfect shape)		
SWITZERLAND					
Mirren	130	225	good powder	good	-3 4/3
			(Superb skiing everywhere, sun and wind)		
Verbier	60	120	good powder	good	-4 5/2
			(Snow in excellent shape, sun and wind, but cold)		
Zermatt	110	390	good powder	good	-4 4/3
			(Superb conditions on all slopes, sun and wind)		

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. Local reports may differ from national averages.

Cejka joins growing list of new winners

FROM MEL WEBB IN HUELVA, SPAIN

ALEXANDER CEJKA, born a Czech but now a German, did his adopted country proud yesterday when he became the fifth first-time winner on golf's PGA European Tour this season by taking the Turespaña Andalucian Open here at Isla de la Cartuja with a total of 278, six under par.

All sorts of people crop up on leader-boards at European Tour events — short, tall, talkative, reticent, happy, sad. All human life is there. The one thing that separates Cejka from his contemporaries on the tour, it can confidently be said, is that he is a political refugee.

Cejka, 24, was born in what was then called Czechoslovakia, and when he was nine he was taken on holiday by his father. Cejka the elder hated,

garded in a good number of Eastern European countries as much too bourgeois to be totally acceptable. His grandparents and his father all played, and when he reached Germany, opportunities to develop his game were so much greater than in the country of his birth.

Cejka, who had played a little golf before what he still insists on calling his "escape" from Czechoslovakia, showed an early aptitude for the game, and by the time he was 16 already knew he wanted to become a professional. His performance here suggests he made a good decision.

He had four birdies and a bogey in reaching the turn in 33, and despite bogeying the 11th and 14th, he never surrendered the lead he had shared with Anders Forsbrand at the start of the day.

Forsbrand faded badly on the back nine, dropping five shots in four holes, but Cejka returned to form with a 67, the joint best score of the day, and closed to within a shot at one point, but then bogeyed the 17th. Word somehow got back to Cejka, who, breathing more easily now, played solid, defensive golf until he had a satisfying but ultimately irrelevant birdie on the last.

The turning point of his round was his par on the grotesque 13th hole, breaker of hearts and ruin of cards all through the week. He played two perfectly judged lay-up shots, pitched to six feet from 50 yards, and punched the ball triumphantly when the putt dropped.

"I hope my win here will help to move German golf forward," he said. "I remember being at a golf tournament at Frankfurt when I was a little kid and looking up at Bernhard [Langer] when he walked past me. Now we are playing on the same tour."

"He was a hero when I was young and still is. For years there was only him in German golf, and it is an honour that there are now two of us who have won. I haven't heard from him yet — but I will."

James Lee, of Wales, won the Kenya Open in Nairobi with a record aggregate total of 265, 19 under par.

with a great and abiding passion, the communist way of life and everything that the government of the country stood for, so instead of going home at the end of the holiday, he took his young son across the border into Italy.

They then travelled, by rail and bus, but mainly on foot, through Italy into Switzerland, and eventually reached Frankfurt. Now living in Munich, Cejka became only the second German after Bernhard Langer to win a fully fledged European Tour event.

Cejka, who had a closing 69 to beat Costantino Rocca by three shots, with Paul McGinley and Wayne Riley two strokes further back, came from a golfing family, which in a communist country set them apart. Golf is still re-



Kulik in full pirouette during the men's qualifying at Birmingham yesterday

Shorten qualifies in style

BY JOHN HENNESSY

CLIVE SHORTEN, Britain's second string, has joined seven Cousins, the national champion, in the world figure skating championships at the NEC, Birmingham. He finished seventh in group A of the introductory competition yesterday, four places above the last qualifying spot. Cousins is already guaranteed entry as of right in the wake of his tenth place in last year's event.

Shorten, now 21, may well feel satisfied with this result, since group A was much the more distinguished section, spearheaded as it was by Todd Eldredge, the United States champion and Ilya Kulik, runner-up in the European championships in January.

Shorten, who has profited from studying under Russian coaches at Stevenage, sprang into explosive action with a triple flip, perfectly executed after only two steps. There followed four other triples —

lutz, flip in combination, salchow and salchow in combination.

It was in every way a pleasing performance particularly in view of the tendinitis in his left leg which has interrupted his training and which still requires a support. Skating to the accompaniment of *Rocky and Sord In The Clouds*, it included some neat features devised by Sasha Mateev at Stevenage.

There was, of course, little fear that Eldredge and Kulik would not survive and for them it was almost a personal matter of asserting early domination. They were subjected to this ordeal because neither competed a year ago. Kulik because of his tender years (then only 16), Eldredge because injury coupled with poor performances have kept him out of the United States team since 1992.

Kulik was the cleaner

junior yesterday, everything finished off with a solid landing. However, there is a cold lack of personality, so that, although they broke even on technical merit, the American was the clear winner on presentation.

Eldredge performed two triple axels, one in combination with a triple toe loop, but the second was not cleanly landed. Otherwise he succeeded with a triple loop, a triple flip, a triple salchow and a notional triple lutz, though there was a suspicion that he rocked onto the inside edge at the last moment and so transformed it into a flip.

Kulik managed six triple jumps, including an axel and toe loop in combination, but one looked in vain for a second axel. What he most needs is not another jump but another choreographer.

Results, page 32

Welsh honour restored

France 10
Wales 22

FROM CHRISTOPHER IRVINE
IN CARDIFF

TWENTY-FOUR hours after the body of Welsh rugby union was left battered at Murrayfield, Welsh rugby league savoured its finest hour for 57 years. A record win here yesterday, albeit only their fourth in 20 visits, comfortably secured the John Smith's European championship.

From small achievement, big ambitions grow. With the exception of Australia, few packs in the World Cup in October will be capable of tangling with the Welsh. The land of their grandfathers is indebted to Byres, Skerrett, Cowie and Acheson, the full back, but their arrival has galvanised a potential that always existed.

France, especially, had no answer to the combative Paul Moriarty, unanimously the man of the series. The Halifax player was the cornerstone of a pack that controlled the second half, and, on a swamp of a pitch, French persistence was eventually defied, though not before silly mistakes provided Long and Garcia with tries.

However, with the score 10-8 to France, the third of Wales's four tries,

immediately after the restart, proved the turning point. Instead of kicking, as he had done badly up to that point, Jonathan Davies accelerated and Acheson moved up on his inside to link for the try.

The hard work had been done in Cardiff last month with the narrow victory over England, but France are notoriously difficult opposition on home soil. In the first half, Wales became bogged down attempting to play an expansive game, although battering runs by Perrett and Moriarty set up tries for Harris and Bateman.

After Acheson's score, Bateman collected his second try when Sirvent failed to field a high kick by Davies, and the Wales stand-off kicked his third goal, from the touchline, shortly before the end.

SCORES: France: Vitor Uro, Garcia, Goss, Malt, Holmes, Tries: Bateman (2), Harris, Acheson. Goals: Davies (2). FRANCE: 1. Uchese (Shillfield), C. Sirvent (St. David's), S. Malt (St. David's), P. Bateman (Warrington), J. Harris (Warrington), J. Davies (Warrington), K. Sir (Warrington), K. Skerrett (Wigan), M. Hall (Wigan), D. Young (Stoke), N. Cowie (Wigan), A. P. Moriarty (Halifax), M. Perrett (Halifax), A. A. Jones (St. David's), J. P. Jones (St. David's), J. P. Jones (St. David's).

Schmitt makes his point

FENCING is on guard and ready to be thrust into the modern age (Stuart Jones writes). In order to maintain a place in the Olympic Games, which is under threat, and to regain financial support, which has been withdrawn, cosmetic changes are being sought by the governing body, the Federation Internationale d'Escrime, based in Paris.

The proposals put forward last year by René Roch, the president, are designed to appeal to television, nowadays apparently the god of even minor sports. He has recommended the use of coloured clothing, see-through masks and a more sophisticated system of scoring.

His ideas, though they would appear sensible, have so far either been shunned or found to be impracticable. Not one of the 176 épécists, gathered in north London at the weekend for the men's senior event of one of 15 tournaments which form the World Cup, was arrayed in anything other than the traditional white costume.

Hidden behind the protective headgear and tethered to a spool, the duellists were virtually undistinguishable from each other except for the names imprinted on their backs, the faces against the colourless, bouncing toe to toe on a raised platform the

length and breadth of a cricket pitch. The sport is so steeped in ancient values that the official pronouncements are still uttered in French.

And amid such tradition, yesterday set in the Metropolitan Police training centre in Hendon, one man stood out from the rest of the field. He was Arnd Schmitt, the Olympic champion in 1992 and, through his victory yesterday, the new world No 1.

He was troubled only in the concluding stages of this, the British stage of the tournament, by George Liston, 35, a Scot attached to the Royal Air Force in Uxbridge. The reigning inter-services champion, he went down to the eventual champion in the last 16 by the narrow margin of 15-12.

Liston finished fifteenth to claim the best result by a Briton since 1982. Quentin Berriman, the present national champion, was an earlier casualty.

The tournament was backed for 35 years by Martini to the tune of £30,000. Without the sponsorship, the budget has dropped to a mere £4,000 but the quality of the competition has been maintained because it leads to qualification for the Olympic Games in Atlanta next year.

There can, however, be no guarantee that any Briton will make the grade.

هكذا نرى الاجل

Cool Hamed stays on fast track to world title

By SRIKUMAR SEN
BOXING CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 13 million television viewers saw the bout between Nigel Benn and Gerald McClellan nine days ago, after which McClellan was taken to hospital with a serious brain injury. It would be surprising if a similar number did not watch Naseem Hamed, the Sheffield super-bantamweight, defend his World Boxing Council (WBC) international title against Sergio Liendo, of Argentina, on Saturday.

It is impossible to say how many turned on their sets to watch Hamed's performance, and how many out of concern for his intended victim, who was not supposed to last more than three

rounds, but Hamed certainly won new admirers, and boxing some new enemies.

Far from underlining the claim that boxing is the safest of dangerous sports, the bout, which went on one punch too long, could have reinforced the view that the purpose of the sport is to inflict brain damage. In view of the calamity that had befallen McClellan, Daniel van de Wiele, the Belgian referee, should have stepped in to stop the contest more quickly.

Liendo, having been floored in the second round with two solid blows, a left and a right, should have been prevented from continuing. Instead, the referee allowed the bout to go on, thereby giving Hamed a free shot.

Liendo was knocked unconscious for the longest minute in British boxing history. "He should not have been allowed to take that last punch," Barry McGuigan, a former world champion, said. Frank Warren, the promoter, said: "I was quite concerned. It should have been stopped after the first knockdown."

Just as concern was beginning to grow, Liendo opened his eyes. After being helped to his feet, he went to his dressing-room more concerned about where the punch that stopped him for the first time in his 51-bout career had come from than his health, and refused to go to hospital for a check-up.

It was Hamed's most successful outing. It established him as the darling of Scottish boxing support-

ers, who firmly believe he could fill the void when he challenges for the world title. Certainly, under the guidance of Warren, he should go from strength to strength and lift the World Boxing Association title held by Wilfredo Vasquez, of Puerto Rico. The bout should take place in April or May.

Because the excesses of his clowning had been curbed, as a mark of respect to McClellan, Hamed took his task in the ring more seriously than usual, and as a result produced his best performance. For once, he boxed in a controlled manner.

Thanks to an opponent who had come to fight, and who caught Hamed two glancing blows to the chin, the Yorkshireman had to do rather more than rush in from afar,

arms spread wide and chin up in the air. He had to stand his ground and fight. Hamed's coolness under pressure, and the dismissive way in which he dispatched his first WBC top-ten ranked challenger, were impressive. He punished the Argentinian with some well-placed blows, particularly an uppercut in the first round, and the left hook and right hand in the second that sent Liendo to the floor.

Brendan Ingle, Hamed's trainer, said: "Now he's starting to plant his feet, he's hitting incredibly hard. He's making them miss and hitting them. Before, he'd jump in missing his shoes. I can't see anyone beating him. Steve Robinson [the World Boxing Organisation featherweight champion], no problem. He'll fight

him on neutral territory in Scotland."

Warren, who also promotes Robinson, has other plans, however. He intends to match the two when Hamed is a champion as well. Warren has offered Vasquez £360,000 to defend against Hamed in England, and has further offered Vasquez's mandatory challenger, Antonio Cermeno, of Venezuela, £60,000 to step aside, with the promise that Hamed's first defence will be against the No 1. "It will not be like Eubank," Warren said. "Every defence will be against a good opponent."

Hamed, 21, should beat Vasquez, 32. "I want to be a legend," Hamed said. Perhaps, but only if he can keep his feet on the ground, literally and figuratively.

PHOTOGRAPH BY TONY MARSHALL



Defeat looms for Liendo, left, as Hamed increases the pressure during their World Boxing Council international championship bout in Livingston

Box office returns to business as usual



Robert Crompton on a night when the show went on in the shadow of the tragedy of Gerald McClellan

Friday evening in Glasgow, two Welshmen, under the pressure of seven punts, have crashed their way in. Pushing through the assembled backs, bangs-on and men without noses, they make straight for their idol, bits of paper and pens in hand. He may still be a half-known name in non-sports fans, but there is no doubt who the star is here for these lads up from the Valleys: "Gary, Gary, can I have your autograph?" Gary Newbon, cult hero of ITV sport, veteran of the chaos nine days ago, smiles and obliges.

A small — no, tiny, at 5ft 3in — man — no, boy — looks on. He is Prince Naseem Hamed, 21, born in Sheffield, of Yemeni parents, and he has just got his clothes back on after coming in at 8.45. His baggy jeans and designer leather are fine, but Naz, advice: if your job requires you to spend a lot of time in your underpants in public, lose the nylon look. Hamed, with 16 wins in 16 fights, is British boxing's — ie, Frank Warren's, and therefore ITV sport's — new "mega-prospect", to use the jargon. He is very good in the ring and because he is also very bad there (smearing at his victims, posing, pointing for the cameras, twanging the fight etiquette of the ropes) he is even better box office.

Speaking of underpants, Sergio Liendo, Hamed's opponent, had already lost his completely to make the weight, a minor humiliation compared to what was to come. Hamed, his Gaeisghe c.1991 crop gleaming, had stood on the scales, kissing his own biceps, grinning at the Argentinian. "Smile, you bum, you're gonna get beat. Might as well smile."

"He's a bit on edge," Brendan Ingle, Hamed's manager, said. "This McClellan business has interrupted his training. I don't know if he'll talk." No worries there. Brendan, ten minutes later Hamed is talking to anyone who will listen.

"I'll be taking it down a bit tomorrow night, out of respect for Gerald McClellan. I'll do me somersault and that's all," the Prince says, smirking. "It's an unfortunate time." What will happen? "He's fighting the best,

gonna get beat just like the rest." Jim Rosenthal, ITV's anchorman, is caught whispering in Naz's ear. "Very sensitive night for us, Naz, so..." Naz mumbled something. The word respect is heard. "I'm sure you will, Naz," Rosenthal says, clapping the Prince on the back. "I'm sure you will. Good boy." Hamed goes off to give an interview to the Middle East Broadcasting Company (MEBC) in Arabic. The MEBC man later confesses Hamed's Arabic isn't any good.

Friday night in Glasgow, everyone has left the weighing-in, except 11 men sitting around a table going over the rules of the contest. Mario Betti, an Italian official for the World Boxing Council (WBC), presides. Betti's nose is intact, a handsome fellow and sensible, too. "There is no disqualification for illegal punches to the body," he reads. "That is not to say that the WBC wants the boxer to

fight like that," he adds, with a meaningful look down his nose at the two managers.

Herman Nicolini, Liendo's manager, has watched the Benn-McClellan fight in Argentina. "An accident. Not normal in boxing. I don't speak to my boxer about Gerald McClellan. My problem is not Gerald McClellan. My problem is Naseem Hamed." And so it proves.

Saturday late afternoon in an Edinburgh pub: four celebrating rugby fans have just declared this "a session". One asks: "Going to Livingston, are you? A fight, is there? Listen: there's a fight in Livingston every Saturday night." And, by implication, every Friday, Monday and most Wednesday mornings, too. Hard men, the Scots. Taxi-driver John Levine, fight fan, on Gerald McClellan: "He didn't have the stamina, did he? The Yank fella."

Saturday night at the Livingston Forum in the bar, William McGuire and his friend, Billy, both concrete gangers from Glasgow, have complimentary £50 tickets. "Benn-McClellan? Should have been stopped. He was gasping for air, his eyes were rolling." Had Mr McGuire been at that fight? "No, my mate saw it on TV. He told me." Does he go to the boxing a lot? "No." Why? "£1.80 for a

small can of lager." Who does he want to win? Mr McGuire considers. Billy leans forward: "Celtic."

Ten o'clock, the main event. The boys are all in from the bar now, 3,000 of them, well warmed up. Mike Goodall, the MC, strokes his extravagant quiff and names the celebrities ringside, ladies and gentlemen. There aren't any, apart from Steve Overt. So Goodall introduces Jim Rosenthal, Reg Gutteridge and Gary Newbon instead. Huge boos for Newbon, huge cheers for the others.

Liendo sneaks in almost unnoticed — then purple lights, drums, stamping of feet. Hamed comes in, dancing along an aisle of ecstatic Scots. He is wearing sunglasses and a kill. Underneath the kill, he reveals a ribboned leopard-skin skirt, and thus more had taste in underwear. He pauses, poses and then somersaults into the ring. He runs around almost knocking into Liendo. Four minutes and nine seconds later, an anxious doctor beat over the prostrate Liendo. Hamed

does it all over again. So much for boxing it down.

"Great maturity shown tonight by the young man," Rosenthal says to camera, at the precise moment that Hamed flips back into the ring after his interview with Newbon. "Knock his head off, Naz," someone had shouted during a lull in the first round.

"I seen him breathing and his eyes open," Naz says afterwards. "You've got a beautiful gift," Ingle says. "A gift from God," Naz says. "Throw it back in my face if you want, but he ain't gonna be a Eubank job," Warren says. "I'm going to be a legend, a king," Naz says. "He said he wanted to dedicate the fight to McClellan," the man from the Express says. "Bloody hell, he nearly did."

The Yemeni ambassador presents his boy with a ceremonial dagger. There is talk of a world title shot in June. Then they talk about that left hook, while downstairs the undercard boxes on. "Still fighting out there?" Warren asks, and smiles.



Hamed: "I'm going to be a legend, a king"

Radcliffe hits world championship form

By DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

ON AN otherwise bad day for favourites, Paula Radcliffe came unscathed through her final rehearsal for the world cross country championships when she won the senior women's race in the British trials at Druridge Bay country park, near Ashington, yesterday. After recent injury, Radcliffe looks as though she will be in tip-top condition for the championships in Durham on March 25.

While Andrew Pearson, Britain's leading men's hope, dropped out of the race for the first time and Nicola Slater, the host nation's best junior, suffered her first defeat by a fellow Briton for two years, Radcliffe survived an unpre-

dictable day. She won by 31 seconds and suffered no immediate reaction to the tendon and foot trouble which she had been trying to shake off for most of the winter.

It was only three weeks ago that, for the first time in almost a year, she raced without suffering a reaction. Even now she is having precautionary treatment, mindful of last year when she watched the world championships in Budapest on crutches.

"I was comfortable," she said of her run yesterday. "I was working hard, but I was not flat out." Of her chances in Durham, she would only say: "There are six to ten girls who can win it."

The next three finishers, Angie Hulley, Alison Wyeth and Bev Hartigan, won auto-

matic places while the selectors completed the team with Lucy Elliott, who was fifth, and Andrea Wallace, Britain's first finisher in the European championships in December.

Wallace missed the trial after injuring a hamstring while on a photo-call for her sponsor. She must indicate fitness by March 17, otherwise Helen Titterton will come in. Titterton, the 1988 English champion, deserves re-

ward for maintaining enthusiasm through years of injury. Between 1989 and 1993, her longest spell of uninterrupted training was three months.

Pearson could not explain the stomach pains which caused him to drop out of the senior men's race, leaving Spencer Duval an unchallenged winner. However, his name was added to those of Duval, Dave Clark, Keith Culen, Tommy Murray, Rob-

ert Quinn, Christian Stephenson and Martin Jones, the first seven, who gained automatic selection.

Adrian Passey was given the other discretionary place. He lost a shoe early on but recovered to finish tenth. Duval will contest the English National next Saturday — which means that the world championships will be his third big race in 21 days.

Clarke, who qualified for his thirteenth world championships, described Duval's decision as "one of the most stupid things you could do". Duval, however, maintained the National had been his main aim all winter.

GREAT BRITAIN TEAMS FOR DURHAM

SENIOR MEN: D Clarke (Fulham), K Culen (Chesham), S Duval (Carnock), M Jones (Northwich), T Murray (Spangau), A Passey (Barnes), A Pearson (Longwood), R Quinn (Kibbarchan), C Stephenson (Cardiff).

SENIOR WOMEN: L Elliott (Shillbury), B Hartigan (Girdle), A Hulley (Leeds City), P Radcliffe (Rochdale), A Wallace (Tortsey), A Wyeth (Parsloes).

* Subject to fitness

JUNIOR MEN: R Brown (Epswich), A Griffin (Torbirg), N Lane (Cardiff), M O'Dowd (Swindon), S Rees (Warrs), T Forrest.

JUNIOR WOMEN: A Brahan (Parsloes), S Gray (Parsloes), M Mann (Preston), H Moulder (Widley), A Outman (Parsloes), N Slater (Rochdale).

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Basketball's image damaged by brawl at Derby

By NICHOLAS HARLING

THE future of DeCarlo Deveau, a basketball player who has been in England only six weeks, is in doubt after his contribution to the uproar on Saturday involving Derby Bucks and Harvey Goldsmith's Leopards.

The Budweiser League fixture, in front of a stunned crowd of 1,100 at the Moorways Centre in Derby, was held up for 22 minutes while the respective coaches and match officials decided on the best action with Malcolm Burgess, the game's commissioner. When it resumed, it was without Deveau, of Leopards, Andy Gardiner — who Deveau appeared to head-butt and punch — and four other players from each bench, who had joined in the brawl.

After his altercation with Gardiner, Deveau, 22, a Florida-based Bahamian, chased Tim Lascelles, another Derby player, around the court brandishing a wooden post. Players from both teams joined in, pushing over one of the scorers' tables. One female scorer was too upset to continue when the game restarted.

With the sports family image jeopardised by the incident, which has to be the worst in the domestic game since Joe Pace, the American player, attacked officials with a chair in Jersey 14 years ago, there were immediate calls for Deveau to be sent home.

"They should give him a one-way ticket back to America," Andy Maher, the Derby player, said. "You don't go around attacking people with a wooden stake, especially in front of three or four hundred children."

The Basketball League is certain to study videos recorded by both clubs, but Billy Mims, the visiting coach, is convinced that Leopards have little to fear. "Deveau was hit first," he said. "Someone swung an elbow at him and, when he saw the wooden post come flying at him from the baseline, he chased the player he thought had thrown it."

Lascelles denied that he had thrown the post and rejected suggestions that Andy Birch, the referee, and Roger Murie, the umpire, were at fault for failing to control a niggling encounter, won 99-84 by the Bucks, who had just profited from the third technical offence awarded against the Leopards when the game erupted, 4min 38sec from the end.

"You can't blame the referees for everything," Lascelles said. "The players have got to have some sort of discipline."



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Nine into one works out to perfection for Ferguson

SUDDENLY it is all very clear. Manchester United will not relinquish the FA Cup, the Premiership title on goal difference, and Ipswich Town deserve, indeed need, to drop a division. In this season of uncertainty, when there is no such thing as a mid-table anomaly — a team is either looking at Europe, or the Endleigh Insurance League — it was refreshing to be at Old Trafford, where inevitability was splashed over every shot, pass and turn on Saturday.

The previous weekend, a similarly downcast Ipswich had somehow wrested three points off a Southampton side

that, by half-time, had them as beaten in spirit, if not scoreline, as United. There were no such quirks during this mismatch. Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, called it a "once-in-a-lifetime performance", but the champions looked perfectly capable of stepping up a gear and did not even break sweat. When Keane opened the scoring, he lolloped to meet Hughes's cross and almost lazily took aim. This, he must have thought, is not going to be a deciding goal.

It was the first time a team managed by Ferguson had won 9-0, and a record Premiership scoreline. It was also

United's most convincing victory since 1898, when they inflicted a 9-0 defeat on Darwen. Six years earlier, United had beaten Wolverhampton Wanderers 10-1.

More recently the 1956 Busby Babes had humiliated Anderlecht 10-0 in the European Cup, but more important, from Ferguson's point of view, was how this game illustrated perfectly what Andy Cole was bought for.

When Giggs dispossessed Yallop and scampered down the wing, it was Cole who was best placed to meet the cross. 2-0. When Hughes's acrobatic overhead shot hit the crossbar, it was Cole who pounced on

Alyson Rudd on the Cole-fired champions' 9-0 demolition of hapless Ipswich Town

the rebound to make it 3-0. When Irwin lofted the ball into the six-yard box it was Cole's head that it finally ricocheted off. 4-0. When McClair's shot came off the Ipswich goalkeeper, Cole was there to stretch the scoreline to 7-0. In a team not shy of taking advantage of corner kicks, it was Cole, nevertheless, who grabbed goal No 9 on the turn after Giggs's corner fell loose a minute from time.

United can field more play-makers than any other Pre-

mier club, but they need a goal poacher to be sure of turning style into points. Set-piece specialist, United had been scissor-kicking, lobbing and long-range firing their way through games. A player with an unerring eye for goal, the ability to turn and run onto that 30-yard pass from Ince, Irwin or Giggs, a player content to let the tip of his boot be all that is required to steer a cross past the goalkeeper, was what Ferguson wanted, and what he got.

The contrast with Lee Chapman, the Ipswich centre forward, was luminous. Chapman probably presented Old Trafford's biggest crowd of the season with the limpest display from a striker they will see for some time. He and Ipswich were so totally out-clasped that, surely, an opportunity to turn their backs on demanding afternoons chasing shadows must be embraced.

The occasion was, for United, a jolly romp, a joke enjoyed the most by Ince. He tried an audacious 40-yard shot that did not work and a quick free kick that did as Forrest was being booked for

handling outside his area. For United it was still only three points; for Ipswich it was more significant. It effectively marked the end of their season and killed off a huge slice of their spirit. Not since 1963 had they been so humiliated, losing 10-1 in a first division match to Fulham at Craven Cottage on Boxing Day.

Cole, having dismissed reports that his third goal came off Yallop and been vindicated by television replays, can now proudly claim to be the Premiership's top marksman in a single match. Efan Ekoku's four goals for Norwich City against Everton last season did not attract quite the same

attention, but then Cole is gilded to the tune of £7 million. However, Cole would have needed another hat-trick to beat Ted Drake's total of seven goals in a match, for Arsenal against Aston Villa in 1935. James Ross jointly holds the first division record with Drake, scoring seven for Preston North End against Stoke in 1888.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-2-3): P. Schuster (capt.), R. Keane (left), L. S. Brown, S. Bruce (left), N. Butt, 80, G. P. Roberts, D. Irwin — S. McClair, F. Ince — A. Cole, M. Hughes, A. McClair, S. Watt, D. Forsyth, S. Thompson — S. Palmer, G. Williams, S. Sedgley, S. B. A. Mather, L. Chapman (sub: I. Marshall, 80, R. F. G. Pull).

Leading article, page 19

Hendry keeps Blackburn ahead on points despite Old Trafford goal-rush

Dalglish stays true to singular ambition

Aston Villa 0
Blackburn Rovers 1

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE sound and the glory tumbling down from Old Trafford on Saturday after nothing, Blackburn Rovers, by eking out victory by a solitary goal in a game at Villa Park that had the virtue of being competitive, still have a grip like a closed fist, as tight as a Kenny Dalglish smile, on their three-point lead in the FA Cup.

Indeed, Dalglish, the Blackburn manager, did his best to appear unimpressed. Asked if he did a double take on hearing the scoreline from Manchester United, he responded: "What's a double take — six points?"

The points. They are all important, as everyone knows, and 11 more Blackburn victories of this nature, pragmatic as they may be, would mean that United could break every scoring record in the world and finish second.

Moreover, the purpose behind Blackburn's caution, before a crowd of 40,114 on a ground where Villa had struck 11 goals in their two previous home fixtures, was clear. Relying on their rock in defence, Colin Hendry, Blackburn, as ever, cut away the frills, used power and solidity, and suffocated Villa's revivalist style.

Hendry was the winner at both ends of the field. After 12 minutes he helped himself to a headed goal. Inevitably, for Blackburn, it came from a dead-ball situation, a corner on the right lashed towards the far post where Hendry, with a little jinking run, eluded his marker, Rhiogu, and, from five yards, had more than enough power to direct the ball into goal. It was over the line before Charles, desperately seeking to clear, got a boot to it.

In that moment, all Villa's planning was cast asunder.

There is no point lining up three centre backs if one loses concentration and thereafter, with Blackburn withdrawing Sutton virtually to a midfield role, the sheer physical presence and stamina of Shearer was left alone to show that the ageing process is finally overtaking McGrath. The man has been magnificent, playing in two World Cups on knees that are better known to the surgeons than to the various managers who have sought to discipline him; but McGrath against Shearer was an unequal contest.

Yet the ambition of Blackburn was principally to hold what they had. Brian Little, the Villa manager, acknowledged: "There are many ways to win a football match. Blackburn did it today playing to their strengths. They bossed us, they were quicker to the second tackles, and even when we became more determined towards the end, their midfield guys blocked our passes. We didn't have the craft to break them down."

It was not merely a lack of craft. There is a physical bluntness to Villa's attack — neither Saunders nor Johnson are powerful athletes — and Johnson had no right to stay on the field when, out of sheer spite, he kicked out just below the chin of Flowers after the goalkeeper had beaten him to the ball.

It was a gratuitous foul, the referee abdicated his responsibility by using the yellow card rather than the red, and what an injustice it would have been had Johnson equalised, as he should have done, late on. He had broken through, gaining half a yard on Le Saux. But Johnson had neither the courage nor the instinct to go on. Pearce came across to dispossess him and the forward was instantly withdrawn by his manager.

After that, despite some lovely, hypnotic touches of control and vision from Yorke, the vice-like grip of Blackburn controlled things. Bosnich had



Rhiogu, the Aston Villa defender, claws his way above Sutton during Blackburn's victory at Villa Park

to be brave and alert on four occasions, twice throwing himself at the feet of Sutton, cutting off a shot from Shearer and going down once more without a thought of self-preservation at the feet of Ripley.

The latter has been, along with Wilcox, such a force and a balance in Blackburn's second attempt to relieve United of the title. But since December, when Ripley injured him-

self with a minuted tackle at Newcastle, he has visibly struggled on damaged ankle ligaments. He played on Saturday, lightly because the arch-professionals have a midweek shuttling role of winger-cum-defender, but drifting inside. Was he fit for 90 minutes?

"You won't find a player in the Premier League that is 100 per cent fit at this time of the season," Dalglish said. "He's fit enough to be an asset to Blackburn Rovers."

And with that, Blackburn were back on the team coach, travelling north to celebrate Dalglish's 44th birthday, lightly because the arch-professionals have a midweek shuttling role of winger-cum-defender, but drifting inside. Was he fit for 90 minutes?

And Aston Villa? Tonight is the night when a parochial West Midlands derby against Coventry City brings "home" Ron Atkinson, the manager

who was dismissed to make way for Little. The Midlands waits to see if Atkinson takes his customary viewing point close to the Villa chairman, Doug Ellis, in the directors' box.

ASTON VILLA (4-4-2): M. Boscch — G. Charles, P. McGee, D. Brown, S. Thompson — J. Taylor, A. Townsend (capt.), R. Hughes, S. Smith, S. Shearer — D. Saunders, I. Johnson (sub: G. Forster, 74). BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-1-1): T. Forster — H. Bagg, C. Hendry, I. Pearce, G. Le Saux — S. Watt, M. Allen, T. Shearer, D. Wicks — D. Sutton — A. Shearer. Referee: R. Gillard.

Anfield revival foils Keegan's happy return

Liverpool 2
Newcastle United 0

By PETER BALL

WHAT a difference a goal can make to a season. After a productive Christmas, Liverpool suddenly began to sputter as the goals from their prolific attackers unaccountably dried up. Five goals and only two wins in nine games told their own story.

Three weeks ago, in the dying seconds of the first leg of their Coca-Cola Cup semi-final, Robbie Fowler stole in to end his barren run; two weeks later Ian Rush did the same in another tense cup-tie at Wimbledon and Liverpool were up and running again on three fronts. On Saturday both scored typical poachers' goals as Liverpool swept Newcastle United aside.

The lesson was not lost on Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, who has been scouring Europe for a goalscorer to replace Andy Cole. Had Klison scored early on as Beardsley put him through, Saturday's outcome might have been different. By the end, though, finding a goalscorer looked the least of Keegan's worries.

"Gentlemen, the manager," announced the Liverpool press steward after the game as he led Keegan in. "The manager of the team that didn't turn up," Keegan said ruefully. "I've not often been annoyed in my three years at Newcastle, but I was annoyed today."

"I don't like to come back to the club I used to play for and watch my team perform like that. I thought we were sloppy — second-rate compared with them. If Pav (Pavel Srnicek) hadn't played so well, you could have seen a scoreline like the Manchester United one."

Once again the game demonstrated the importance of Beardsley to the North Easterners. In the first half, although often on the receiving end with their wretched defence threatening to crumble at any moment, Newcastle had their moments in a wonderful game as Gillespie skipped past Babb at will and Beardsley loaded the guns.

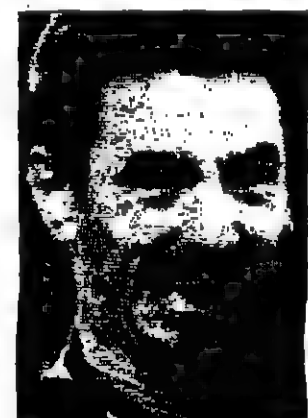
But Beardsley stayed off after the interval with a hamstring injury and, in spite of a brilliant display by Srnicek,

Newcastle duly crumbled. Liverpool's ability to withstand physical challenge has been questioned this season, but they looked powerful against Newcastle's light weight side. Barnes and Redknapp dominating central midfield with not a ball-winner in sight.

"You've got to win the ball, but fairly," Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said. "There's no point in having a 'hard man' who never plays."

Barnes had a superb game on Saturday, tackling, filling the holes and sending Redknapp and the forwards on threatening sorties with some finely-judged passes.

With Rush he is also emerging as a team leader, setting standards for the young players. On Saturday he gave Babb his views in no uncertain



Rush: poacher's goal

terms on one pass which fell short of Liverpool standards.

The benefits of these bustling taskmasters are tangible. Redknapp, looking more like the player of last autumn, is one of the best young midfield prospects in the country, while Rush's work ethic is rubbing off on Fowler.

"It is like having two coaches on the field for me with John and Ian," Evans said. "John means more than I do." Barnes had his own said. "Rushie does more meaning than coaching these days," he said. The pair may yet mean their way to Wembley — or, if the leaders should slip up, to an even greater prize.

LIVERPOOL (4-2-3): D. James — J. Scoble, M. Barnes, P. Beardsley — R. Evans, S. Bruce, S. Sedgley, S. B. A. Mather, I. Chapman (sub: I. Marshall, 80, R. F. G. Pull).

Referee: P. Jones.

Frank analysis strikes its target

THE beat of the lone team-tan at the Trent End must have drowned out the sound, but somewhere between kick-off and final whistle at the City Ground on Saturday, the patience of Frank Clark snapped with some force. The Nottingham Forest manager had seen his side go ahead with two goals in a minute, then concede an equaliser three minutes from time — all three goals coming in the last ten minutes — yet he was more bothered by the apathy of his two multimillion-pound strikers, Bryan Roy and Stan Collymore, than the result of their FA Cup Premiership match.

The Forest dressing-room turned as chilly as the Trent as Clark left neither in any doubt about his feelings. "I've told them what I think," he said. "We had nine players out there trying to make something happen and two just waiting for it to happen. Both performances were unacceptable to the other players in the team, and to the spectators."

Without actually saying the pair did not try, it was not hard to read between the lines. "I would never publicly criticise a player for playing poorly, and certainly the service to them could have been better, but in that situation you have two choices," Clark said. "Either you can battle to turn it round, or you hang

Andrew Longmore on the angry fall-out from Nottingham Forest's 2-2 draw with Tottenham

around up the field hoping someone will lay the ball on for you to score a goal. The Nottingham Forest manager had seen his side go ahead with two goals in a minute, then concede an equaliser three minutes from time — all three goals coming in the last ten minutes — yet he was more bothered by the apathy of his two multimillion-pound strikers, Bryan Roy and Stan Collymore, than the result of their FA Cup Premiership match.



Collymore criticised

thing." Most probably, "You won't be playing against Everton on Wednesday."

Several factors sharpened the poignancy of Roy's casual display. Back in the autumn sunshine of White Hart Lane, the Holland international had enjoyed his finest hour in a red shirt, scoring twice in a 4-1 win. The critics purred. Clark was hailed as a genius, Roy as a breath of fresh air, and Forest as future champions. But Roy's form has disintegrated badly over the winter, and his partnership with Collymore has failed to develop. Collymore, at least, has kept scoring. Roy's last goal was three months ago. They were always an odd couple. On Saturday, they looked as though they had just emerged from the divorce courts.

Forest's second goal, scored by Jason Lee just six minutes after he had replaced Roy, and seconds after Beekman had equalised with a 25-yard shot, highlighted the worth of last season's endeavour against substantial talent.

With Forest alive at last, Woan boasted a punt into the penalty box, which Walker should have collected. Instead, under pressure from Lee, he missed his catch, the ball ran

loose, and Lee bundled the ball home for a messy, bread-and-butter goal. Calderwood, Tottenham's best player, drove home the equaliser shortly afterwards.

Quite apart from Roy and Collymore, the occasion was fraught with unfulfilled expectations. By tradition, fixtures between these teams are crackers, full of invention, good passing and goals. By the time the first goal came after 79 minutes, a tap-in by Sheringham, most were too bored to care.

Then there was Rosenthal, whose three left-foot strikes had sunk Southampton in midweek. Given a rare start, he confirmed what we knew in our hearts: that he is a brilliant substitute. Every time he swung his trusty left boot, the ball came off the foot of a defender or arrived to the back of the stand. He will be back on the bench soon. Roy's fate is more open to doubt, but if autumn's Roy of the Rovers did turn to spring's Roy the rover, the departure would surely confirm all the old prejudices about false-hearted continentalism.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-2): M. Cresswell — D. James, C. Cooper, S. Bruce, D. Pugh — S. Bruce, L. Brown, A. I. Marshall, I. Wicks — S. Sedgley, S. B. A. Mather, I. Chapman (sub: I. Marshall, 80, R. F. G. Pull). Referee: G. Gillard.

THE jury is still out on Duncan Ferguson, but the judgment is high. The Everton forward, £4 million worth of lanky frame, lean muscle and silky sinew, continues to confound the most compassionate of observers.

His trial at Goodison Park, with Everton already a player short after the dismissal of Samways for a retaliatory kick at Galloway in the fifth minute, the demons returned to haunt Ferguson. He argued with Galloway, after the Celtic player on loan to Leicester had been cautioned, for the fourth time in six games, for fouling Barlow, and had to be calmed by Barrett and Horne.

As the red mist descended though, he challenged Willis — arm raised, elbow high — and was immediately banished by Paul Durkin, the referee. That the intent or extent of contact was debatable became lost as a precious talent again made a premature departure amid dubious circumstances. Galloway, provoked to the end, bade him farewell with unnecessary relish.

Roy added his views as a former Ferguson trooper, past him and later, could barely conceal his disbelief at how Everton had self-destructed from 2-0 in front at half-time — through Lippi's lethal 30-yarder and a Samways tap-in, on his first start for Roy,

Russell Kempson watches Everton let slip their advantage in a 2-2 draw with Leicester

twice since transferring his allegiance south of the border. Against Leicester City at Filbert Street on Saturday, with Everton already a player short after the dismissal of Samways for a retaliatory kick at Galloway in the fifth minute, the demons returned to haunt Ferguson. He argued with Galloway, after the Celtic player on loan to Leicester had been cautioned, for the fourth time in six games, for fouling Barlow, and had to be calmed by Barrett and Horne.

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after a delightful six-man move.

"I'm disgusted," Roy said. "Two brain failures cost us dearly but it will cost them dearly, too. They will be fined as heavily as I'm allowed. I just wish it could be more. We were cruising with a double handful and it was just a question of how many we would score."

"Duncan jumped with his arm up, and I don't think he deliberately tried to do the fella, but I've got no complaints. The ref had an excellent game. If it had stayed 11 v 11 we could have been right up



Ferguson: hero and villain

the table, but we're now still deep in trouble.

Roy was unhappy with Galloway's inflammatory attitude but Mark McGhee, the Leicester manager, said: "You have to allow him a certain leash. If he stays in control, that's OK, but it's a fine line." However, McGhee was not enamoured with Galloway's verbal exchange with Roy as the pair approached the dressing-rooms at the end. "I slaughtered him," McGhee said. "I'm not having that."

Calway found it all par for the course. "I've had a few tussles with Duncan before and it was like any Old Firm game," he said.

Everton eased ahead with grace but as their disciplinary count rose to 27 yellow cards and five red, from their last nine FA Cup Premiership outings, the wheels fell off. Samways went, Draper made it 2-1, Ferguson went, Roberts equalised. Seven minutes remained for Everton's emergency 4-4-0 formation to hold out; it did, but how much longer can the jury stay out on Ferguson? The verdict, by Roy's decree, must come soon.

LEICESTER CITY (4-2-3): K. Poole — S. Gordon, J. Wicks, C. M. Smith, J. Lawrence, G. Morris, N. Lewis — M. Galloway, G. Foster, R. Draper — D. Love, J. Roberts, M. Roberts. Referee: P. Jones.

Referee: P. Jones.

Armstrong
WestHam di
Dolan pleads no
to Hills of Hull sc

Absent striker overshadows hustle and bustle at Stamford Bridge

Armstrong remains centre of attention

Chelsea 0
Crystal Palace 0

By OLIVER HOULT

HE WORE dark glasses as he sat on the back bench of the Crystal Palace dugout during the second half. It fitted the fugitive image nicely, but Chris Armstrong, the £5 million man who failed a drug test, was shielding his eyes from the sun setting over the West Stand at Stamford Bridge, not from the legion of stares and cameras directed at him.

Armstrong, who fell foul of the Football Association's testing system when traces of cannabis were found in his sample during a training ground check, is just the latest miscreant in a troubled season of sinners and scandals, but his presence here overshadowed a dull relegation derby and highlighted the unwelcome coincidence of the meeting of these two sides at a time when they are labouring not only in the shadow of mediocrity but also controversy.

If either was seeking redemption on the field after the activities of Armstrong and a minority of Chelsea supporters in Bruges last week, it

eluded them completely. Both fought doggedly and spiritedly and both had chances to score. The general paucity of play, though, matched the bitter weather.

The formation moulded by Glenn Hoddle, the Chelsea manager, which was supposed to resemble a diamond, has been bastardised now for pragmatic reasons. If you join up the dots, it looks like a robot without feet and, the longer the season goes on, the more the team seems to conform to the model.

Full results and league tables Page 28

Chelsea have won just twice in 16 FA Cup Premier League games now and only Roca, a substitute for the injured Spencer, provided any spark of invention — and that only fitfully. Palace looked shorn of menace without Armstrong — and he has scored only two goals all season.

Alan Smith, the Palace manager, was keen to emphasise that his star striker was no Paul Merson and clearly hopes Armstrong will be available to play in the second leg of his team's Coca-Cola Cup

semi-final against Liverpool on Wednesday.

"I hope we will get the go-ahead to play Chris again soon from the Football Association," he said. "He is mentally and physically fit. The action against him is getting out of proportion. There has been a cloud over the place since the tests were carried out and I want to look after him now. I don't want the boy to be destroyed."

"But the club is quite clear on the rules it lays down on drugs, whether it be class A or class B drugs. Everyone in the club, from the professionals through to the apprentices, must conduct themselves in a proper fashion."

West Ham United's win at Arsenal left Palace in even deeper trouble at the foot of the table, but it could have been worse. Chelsea, who have not won at home for more than four months, had the best of the chances, but the onus fell on Stein to convert them and he was not equal to the task.

His best opportunity came in the 65th minute, when Peacock and Newton combined cleverly to put him through, but the ball did not run kindly for him and he scooped it over the bar. A minute later, Martyn, the Palace goalkeeper, flung himself to his left to beat out Burley's pile-driver.

Palace had their chances too and Preece hit the post in the thirtieth minute with Hitchcock well beaten. Stein, though, had a final chance to clinch the game in the dying minutes, but he poked a close-range shot tamely at Martyn.

"It has been a strange week," Smith said. "I had two of my best players missing in Armstrong and Coleman today and, the way the week has gone, I am grateful for small mercies."

Chris has apologised to me and to his team-mates, he has been training regularly and there is nothing more than we can do now. It is a frustrating situation because it is such an important week for us. I just want everything to get back to normal."

CHelsea (4-3-3): K. Hirschko — S. Carter, E. Johnson, F. Benoit, A. Lewis, J. Spencer — G. Peacock, C. Burley, E. Newton — J. Spencer (sub: D. Roca, 20min), M. Smith.

CRYSTAL PALACE (4-4-2): M. Martyn — D. Patterson, D. Gordon, E. Young (sub: D. Matthews, 60), R. Shaw — G. Scargill, J. Sako, D. Pocher, R. Newton — J. Davis, A. Preece (sub: G. Nichol, 70). Referee: M. Reed.



Newman, left, proves a painful obstacle for Burley, of Chelsea, at Stamford Bridge

PREMIERSHIP AT A GLANCE				
Team	Played	Points	Goal diff	Recent form
Manchester United	31	69	+38	LWWDW
Manchester City	31	65	+40	WWWLW
Sheff Wed	31	54	+10	WWLWL
Sheff Utd	31	48	+10	WWLWL
Leeds	31	42	0	WLLWL
Blackburn	31	40	-1	LDWWL
Derby	30	39	-1	LDWWL
Sheff Sat	32	38	-1	WWDL
Nottingham	31	35	-1	WWWD
Coventry	31	34	-2	LDWD
QPR	30	33	-6	LDLDD
Wolves	31	32	-7	LDWD
Blackburn	31	31	-9	LDWD
Sheff Wed	29	32	-8	WDL
Sheff Utd	30	32	-11	WDLWL
Sheff Sat	31	31	-10	WDLWL
Nottingham	31	23	-38	LLWLL
Coventry	31	23	-23	LDLDD

Weekly change: Up (▲) Stayed the same (□) Down (▼)

West Ham display instinct for survival

Arsenal 0
West Ham United 1

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

WEST Ham United glimped FA Cup Premier League salvation at Highbury yesterday, only their second league win in eight attempts lifting morale and, more important, their points tally. Forgetting Leicester City and Ipswich Town, surely condemned souls already, the dogfight to avoid the other two relegation places becomes more intriguing by the match.

It was not a traditional West Ham display, laced with artistry and adventure, but was comfortably good enough to dispose of an Arsenal side that had drifted back into its bad old ways for the first time since Stewart Houston replaced George Graham as manager four matches ago.

Highbury devotees were yet again subjected to a bland 90 minutes, so often the case at the North London club this season.

Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, said: "If we'd been playing poorly recently, I'd be the first to hold my hands up, but we've been playing well without getting the rewards. I think we were probably owed that one."

West Ham were good value for their half-time lead, a combination of hard running and imaginative inter-passing giving a static Arsenal back four constant worries. Without Adams, who was suspended, space abounded for Hutchinson and Connee to weave merry little webs around Bould and Linighan.

Allen might revel in his nickname of "Mad Dog" but, when embroiling the omnipresent aggression with his undoubted skills, he can

match the best. Time and again he served his forwards with precision, the Arsenal defenders finding themselves lured in all directions.

Such momentum had to produce chances, and did, with West Ham outshining Arsenal by six shots to two before the interval. Bartram,

the stand-in for Seaman, who will have a bone scan today to determine whether his rib injury is a hairline fracture, was free of any guilt when West Ham took the lead in the 21st minute.

Moncur worked a clever free kick move on the edge of the Arsenal area and, after exchanging passes with Connee, delivered a firm, low cross. Not a red and white shirt got close to it and Bartram, alone and helpless, was easily beaten by Hutchinson's close-range jab.

Arsenal were not functioning in any department and it was small wonder that the public address announcement of half-time highlights, to be shown on Highbury's giant video screen, was greeted with howls of derision from the home supporters. For Arsenal, there were none.

At least in the second half there were a couple. Helder, a

peripheral presence on the left flank, had a goal-bound drive blocked and Jensen, following up, saw his 25-yard pile-driver superbly turned away by Miklosko. Five minutes from time, Wright shot straight at Miklosko, after a delicate pass from Schwarz, and then nodded the rebound towards the line. Rieper, calm and calculated, guided it clear.

However, they were isolated moments of excitement. West Ham held tight and frequently raided through the middle, with Hutchinson, Moncur and Rush all wasting promising possibilities. "There's a lot worse teams in the league than us," Redknapp said. "Of course we can get out of this."

ARSENAL (4-4-2): V. Bartram — L. Dixon, A. Linighan, S. Bould, N. Whitcomb — P. Parker, J. Jensen (sub: S. Morrow, 70min), S. Schwarz, G. Helder (sub: C. Howson, 70) — P. Moncur, J. Wright.

WEST HAM UNITED (4-3-3): L. Miklosko — T. Brackner, M. Rieper, S. Potts, J. Dixon — M. Allen, J. Bould, J. Moncur — J. Taylor (sub: M. Rush, 60), D. Hutchinson, A. Connee. Referee: D. Hill.



Hutchinson: prominent

Dolan pleads not guilty to ills of Hull society

Hull City 0
Birmingham City 0

By PAT GIBSON

TERRY DOLAN's claim that he was happy to be the manager of Hull City rather than Birmingham City seemed a strange assertion after some of his club's supporters had attacked the visiting team's coach on the way to the ground, one of his players had been sent off and another had been lucky not to go the same way.

There are some things, however, which are beyond the manager's control, such as the problems of society and the foibles of referees, and Dolan was talking about the way the side he has built on a shoestring had held the biggest spenders in the Endersleigh Insurance League second division.

That may sound like an abdication of responsibility when the match itself had inevitably been overshadowed by another outbreak of hooliganism in another Birmingham's bus, held up in traffic a mile from the ground, and three windows broken by bricks and their manager, Barry Fry, had his chin nicked by flying glass.

To his credit, Fry refused to use the incident as an excuse for anything that happened on the field and Dolan had a better Hull City a better football team. I cannot have much effect on what the

idiots are doing elsewhere — not just in Hull but everywhere.

"The only way I can improve society is by making sure my players behave themselves on the field and that my children are brought up the right way. If everybody did that, we wouldn't have these problems, would we?"

"What happened will be the talking point but I'm more concerned that we have matched Birmingham when their squad has cost £3 million and ours has cost £60,000. I'm proud of my players today and I just wish the people of Hull would realise what we are capable of doing and somebody somewhere would give us some financial backing."

Dolan's pride in Hull's performance was not diminished by having Hobson sent off in the 62nd minute when Francis, Birmingham's 6ft 7in striker, toppled like a felled oak with only the goalkeeper between him and goal, or that Windass should have gone too when he swung a boot at Tait.

Birmingham could not make the most of their numerical advantage. The closest they went to scoring was when the substitute, Saville, failed to make contact with the ball from only two yards after Farris had blocked a shot from Francis with his legs.

HULL CITY (4-4-2): A. Farris — C. Lee, N. Allison, G. Hobson, R. Dewhurst, J. Graham — W. Joyce, J. Windass, N. Mann (sub: R. Peacock, 70min) — J. Omondrow, L. Brown.

BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-4-2): I. Bennett — G. Poole, D. Bennett, L. Dash, C. Whyte — L. Donowe (sub: S. Robinson, 65), P. Shearer, P. Tait, R. Otto — S. Cline, A. Smith, G. R. Francis. Referee: R. Farnham.

Colchester free-for-all fails to impress crowd

Colchester United 1
Darlington 0

By IVO TENNANT

LOSING 9-0 against Manchester United was not the worst aspect of George Burley's week. An Ipswich manager must reckon on being beaten at Old Trafford, if not quite by a cricket score. Altogether less pleasant was the writ that was slapped on him by his former employers, Colchester United.

Heavy defeats go away — normally at the next home match — but writs do not. Colchester and Ipswich having been unable to come to an agreement over compensation for Burley's move, this was evidently the next resort.

The extent to which this affected him in the run-up to the game at Old Trafford can only be surmised, but there was no doubting the glee at Layer Road when the soretime was relayed from the North.

The team that Burley left behind is now managed by Steve Wignall. It would be nice to report that the reason for there being a sell-out crowd of 6,055 owed everything to the football Colchester play, but the reality was that this was apparently the first totally free match in the United Kingdom.

The lottery and transport to the ground were likewise free and even a cup of coffee was thrown in. This was a splendid initiative, although just how

many will return and pay £7 for so doing remains to be seen.

The football was not of the highest order, but then it is not at many grounds outside Old Trafford. Colchester won through a goal scored in the third minute by Asaba, but Darlington deserved a draw at least.

Darlington also have a new manager, Paul Fitcher, who was appointed only on Friday. It would be stretching a point to say that he follows in a noble line of managers, but Brian Little was once the incumbent, and so too was Cyril Knowles.

Fitcher is a realist, which might explain why he was recommended to Darlington by no fewer than three top-flight managers. "The contract does not run beyond the end of the season, but I was only at home doing nothing," he said. "We could still face relegation and I can't say I'm going to tell the players to knock the ball around like Brazil."

Had it not been for an error by Pollitt that led to Asaba's goal, the result would have been more just. Upon such twists do managers come and go, and when writs arrive even in this sporting part of the country, you know they go more quickly than they come.

COLCHESTER UNITED (4-3-3): M. Pollitt — M. Appleby, I. Barlow, S. Grogan, G. Hinchinbrook — S. Shaw (sub: R. Blake, 62), G. Chapman, P. Olson, S. Coughlan — S. Brown, R. Fitcher. Referee: A. Bailey.

Garnett keeps Tranmere comfortable at the top

Sunderland 0
Tranmere 1

By LOUISE TAYLOR

ON A day dominated by defenders, it was perhaps appropriate that the winning goal came from a centre half's head. By rising to meet John Morrissey's cross nine minutes from time, Shaun Garnett extended Tranmere's lead at the top of the Endersleigh Insurance League first division to three points.

Thus, on a raw afternoon at Roker Park, Rovers reminded rivals of their promotion potential while Sunderland discovered their relegation worries were far from over. Another home defeat prompted a post-match demonstration by disaffected supporters, with chants of "Sack the Board" and "Bob Murray out" echoing around the old ground for a good 30 minutes after the final whistle. Considering the sub-zero chill, this represented quite a show of resolve against Sunderland's majority shareholder, whose lack of investment has left the club struggling in Newcastle's shadow.

Yet the final result could have been different, perhaps would have been had Russell, showing everyone a clear pair of heels, scored instead of striking a post in the opening seconds. The striker's slight hesitancy before shooting had enabled Nixon, the visiting goalkeeper, to restrict his options.

In turn, more marked hesitancy from Malkin's part denied Tranmere an early goal. This time, Scott was able to slide in with a saving tackle, atoning for Ball's initial blunder.

The next clear chance was Sunderland's, as was the next bad miss. After 25 minutes, Russell won a penalty after Garnett apparently fouled him; however, Gray directed the kick straight at Nixon and, although the goalkeeper looked a good two yards off his line, the referee had no complaints as he parried the shot to safety.

Thereafter, though some encouraging wing play from Smith, for Sunderland, and Morrissey, for Tranmere, promised much, attempts on

Wolverhampton win but earn no points for style

Wolverhampton 1
Portsmouth 0

By DAVID MILLER

AN AFTERNOON at the allotment. Digging, mulching, hoeing and not a landscape gardener in sight. Wolverhampton may ultimately have won this particular battle, thanks to Bull's late, lucky goal, but do not bank on them winning promotion.

The hand that so uncertainly guided England and has now steered Wolverhampton to the last eight of the FA Cup looks unlikely, on this evidence, to grasp the FA Cup Carling Premiership. Graham Taylor's football continues to be primarily functional, but unappealing to those not looking through amber lenses.

Wolves led the Endersleigh Insurance League first division from September through to November 23, when they beat Bolton Wanderers 3-1. They slipped to second in December and dropped to sixth in February with a 2-1 away defeat by Bolton and 2-0 loss at home to Middlesbrough. Winning yesterday, even if not taking the pretty route, was therefore important. It lifted them to fourth with two games in hand on Tranmere, who are three points ahead of Middlesbrough.

The popular, appropriately named Bull, having returned after a lengthy injury, won the man-of-the-match award, but no more earned that prize than an inconsistent referee. Stowell, making his return in goal for Wolverhampton in preference to Jones, would have been more deserving. A few minutes from the end, he protected the victory when scrambling across his line to palm out a close-range shot by Kristensen, who had just come on as substitute. Kristensen should have scored.

The subtleties yesterday came from Portsmouth in the first half. The elusive Radosavljevic, cleverly manipulating the ball with his left foot and repeatedly striking from midfield, might have turned the game Portsmouth's way; no less Creaney, partnering the diminutive

Hall up front and occasionally producing a deft dribble.

At this stage, the slow but solid Butters was winning his war of attrition with Bull and Wolverhampton's long-ball game was looking particularly sterile. It is strange that, although Wolves have the evergreen Cowans in midfield, nobody tries to play with him. All his colleagues run the other way, obliging him to hit the ball long. This occasionally works for Kelly, the Ireland striker, or Bull, but it means their game is bound to continue to be erratic.

George Cain, the Merseyside referee, was neither very mobile nor very good and there were two controversies concerning penalties that he might have given and did not. When Goodman, challenged by Russell, went headlong in the first half, he was not only a yard outside the area but had already lost the ball. Gitters's foul on Bull on the hour was another matter. Although Bull was moving away from the goal, his legs were clearly taken.

When, ten minutes later, Dennison's cross-shot clipped the crossbar and flew innocently to safety, it seemed this was not to be Wolverhampton's day. Their second-half performance, assisted by the disappearance of Radosavljevic to the fringe of the fray — and eventual substitution — did deserve something. They were to get it, but only just.

A long, hopeful cross by Dennison was flapped out by Knight, under pressure, almost straight to Bull's feet. The crowd's favourite only half-hit his hooked shot and was happy to see a desperate Knight fling himself to his left and deflect the ball beyond Russell who, standing on the line, might otherwise have cleared.

That, as they say, is football, but on a blustery, cold day on which the ball was far too often in the air for anyone to remember much else, Wolves maintained their double ambition.

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): M. Stowell — P. Blaker, J. De West, P. Sheaf, A. Thompson — D. Goodman, M. Butters, G. Cowans, R. Dennison — D. Kelly, S. Bull.

PORTSMOUTH (4-3-2-1): A. Preece — R. G. Jones, M. Symonds, G. Butler, L. Preece — S. Radosavljevic, D. Oughton, G. Brown (sub: K. Morris, 64), P. Neven — J. Muir, C. Malin (sub: J. Aldridge, 68). Referee: R. Poulton.

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Comprehensive victory over sorry Wales sows doubt in English minds for Twickenham

Scots throw down the grand slam gauntlet

Scotland 26
Wales 13

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND'S gauntlet crashed down onto the English table at Murrayfield on Saturday. The swagger is back in the Scottish stride, the cocky angle to the bonnet that warns of another enthralling climax to rugby union's five nations' championship when the two unbeaten teams meet for the grand slam at Twickenham on March 18, as they did in 1990, in Edinburgh.

"At the start of the five nations' I said I would be

Against Wales he became the first Briton to pass 600 international points, set an individual mark for this series with 16 points, and is only two short of his personal record for the championship of 52, set in his first season.

Not that Hastings reckons his contribution in terms of points, though 16 each against Ireland and Wales, and 18 against France, are forceful statements of fact. It is his presence that inspires his team, the demands he makes of himself and, by extension, others, that has done so much to drag Scotland out of the dark November doldrums and into a team that may well go into the World Cup as favourites to win its pool, despite the presence of France.

How well his players have responded, this mix-and-match of individuals who, when the season began, were barely considered. Hilton, Peters, Campbell and the passed-over blacksmith, Wright, have become integral parts of a Scotland side reminiscent of those of the mid-1980s, which marauded around Murrayfield, reducing opponents to snatching at shadows — just as the Welsh did on Saturday.

One revealing photograph over the weekend encapsulated the "new" Scotland: Back, the Welsh full back, apparently alone and faced by the complete Scotland back row, and Weir, and Hilton, with the obvious implication that the entire back division waited for the ball after Back had been stripped of it. Scotland have pace throughout the side and, above all, confidence.

"If we had not had the earlier victories, we would not have had the confidence to run the ball from our own 22, which led to Peters's try," Hastings said. "It would probably have been a kick to touch." That the try came from

disappointed if we didn't go to Twickenham with a chance of a triple crown," Gavin Hastings said. "We have gone one stage further than that, and I am delighted." So he should be. The Scotland captain, their most capped player and record points-scorer, has cocked his own snook at his critics, and stands on the verge of a wonderful climax to his career.

Hastings has yet to declare whether the World Cup will be, at 33, his finale, though common sense suggests it will, given the problems he has to overcome with a long-standing back injury. If so, he will go out in a blaze of glory.



CHAMPIONSHIP



Logan, right, whose brilliant run set up Scotland's scintillating first try for Peters, tussles with Evans, the Wales captain, at Murrayfield. Photograph: Ian Waldie

Welsh possession was heart-breaking as the visitors tried desperately to find a way back into a match which, at that stage, they led by a point.

Yet it was a score to savour. Wainwright, Hastings and Weir giving Logan room on the left. The wing has been a thorn in every opponent's flesh this season, and here he veered outside two tight forwards, Garin Jenkins and Derwyn Jones, cut back inside, attracted two defenders, and left Peters with an unimpeded path to the line.

It was no more than the No 8 deserved, and when Hilton crossed for a try four minutes later it became a tolerable day for players so

frequently members of the Bath second XV.

The phase offered echoes of the old Scotland, of which England will be properly wary, though they will surely not offer them the chance to develop such momentum as a desperately disappointing Wales did. If they sought a shot in the arm after three successive defeats, the Welsh received it when Robert Jones sped under the posts with less than three minutes played.

They dominated the first five and a half minutes of the Royal Bank International, until the moment that Neil Jenkins knocked on a pass from Jones. It was the chink of light for the Scots, who pro-

DETAILS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	3	3	0	0	74	27	6
Scotland	3	3	0	0	75	47	6
France	4	2	0	0	77	70	4
Wales	3	0	0	3	31	70	0
Ireland	3	0	0	3	28	71	0

RESULTS: France 21 Wales 5, Ireland 6 England 20, Scotland 26, Ireland 15, England 21 France 10, France 21 Scotland 23, Wales 9, England 23, Ireland 7 France 26, Scotland 26, Wales 13.

WATCHES TO COME: March 18: England v Scotland, Wales v Ireland.

their game which left Wales utterly bereft, never knowing from which direction the next attack would come — ball in hand, or kicked over the top by Redpath or Chalmers, who played his most consistent 80 minutes for many a day. However, it will not have escaped English eyes — both Don Rutherford, their technical director, and John Elliott, the national selector, were at Murrayfield — that Scotland's first-time tackling was less than secure, and that they could only share the second half 6-6.

However, they will also remember that in Cat, they still have a tyro international full back, and some of

Chalmers's high balls to Back, which the Welshman coped with as bravely as he could, were magnificent efforts, enhanced by the quality of the chasing backs. Chalmers, of course, had space to play in after his forwards had cleared the way, whereas Jones, the one bright spark in Welsh darkness, was under the heaviest of pressure.

It was, according to their coach, Alan Davies (misnamed on television as Alan Evans, which adds insult to injury), a "comprehensive" defeat, and the Welsh rugby community — described by Robert Norster, the Wales team manager, as a village — will crowd in upon them

relethlessly. For the exultant Scots, who will confirm their XV for Twickenham on Wednesday, there is all to play for.

SCOTLAND: A Hastings (Wainwright, captain), C A Jones (McLennan), G P Townsend (Gale), S Hastings (Wainwright), K M Logan (Bishop), C M Chalmers (Hastings), S W Redpath (McLennan), D I W Wilson (Bath), R S Miles (Newcastle), P H Wright (Scarborough), R J Wainwright (West Hartlepool), G W Weir (Newcastle), E J Campbell (Dundee HFP), I R Morrison (London Scottish), E W Peters (Bath).

Wales: M J Back (Bridgend), I C Evans (Llanelli), M R Hall (Cardiff), N G Davies (Llanelli), W T Francis (Llanelli), R J Jenkins (Pontypool), R N Jones (Swansea), M Griffiths (Cardiff), G R Jenkins (Swansea), S C John (Llanelli), T Taylor (Cardiff), D Jones (Cardiff), G O Llewellyn (Newport), R G Collins (Pontypool), E W Lewis (Cardiff).

Referee: S Lander (England)

Conformity leads to betrayal of great tradition

It is ten years since Wales won in Edinburgh. In the preceding 20 years, Murrayfield represented little to make the many thousands of Welshmen who make the biennial trek north tremble. Wales won six times out of ten. What has gone wrong?

Is it going too far to suggest that the qualities of brilliant opportunism, swiftness of mind and brave conviction, which were once the hallmarks of the Welsh game, have been scattered in the wind of change that arrived in the name of coaching and its demands to promote the idea of establishing patterns within the game, rather than to inspire instinctive responses. To yearn for those virtues now begins to look like nostalgia.

Whatever those who believe themselves to be among the foremost "thinkers" of the modern game may

theorise, the man in the street in Wales knows, in his heart of true hearts, that a great Welsh tradition is being disowned. The demand to conform, which coaching requires, is alien to a nation of nonconformists. It is not only at senior level that the imbalance is manifest. The Wales under-21 side demonstrated as much on Friday afternoon when they too, lost against their Scottish counterparts. And so it is at other levels in Wales. Welsh rugby needs to be free but everywhere it is in chains.

Scotland, for their part, may bemoan the lack of depth in their game and the narrow base from which they have to choose the national team. But on the evidence of Saturday, it is they who better demonstrate those qualities of quick thinking, self-belief and the taking of risk, upon which Wales once felt they had the copyright.



GERALD DAVIES

At Murrayfield

There was no better example of this than Scotland's first try. Back and Proctor attempted to counter-attack but found that they were isolated and, since it is not a habit encouraged at club level, they lacked sufficient support: their effort looked laboured and contrived. The Wales wing, as a last resort, was forced to kick. Gavin Hastings gathered on his own 22-metre line. He ran. Where Wales had failed, Scotland succeeded, with Weir and Logan continuing what turned out to be an irresistible momentum, which resulted in Peters crossing for a classic score.

Admittedly, swiftness of thought had brought Wales a brilliant try in the second minute, but they were not to return to the Scotland line for another 20 minutes. During this period, the Scots showed a better instinct than Wales for what the game required.

As against England, Wales insisted on playing too far behind their own gain-line, ensuring that Wainwright, Morrison and Peters, the Scotland back row, were running forward whereas their counterparts were usually in retreat. In addition, from every set-piece, Chalmers, who was in astute tactical form, pummelled a

high ball in Back's direction. The Wales full back coped magnificently but it did not extinguish Scotland's impetus.

Wales no longer seem to understand this basic function of turning the opposition on their heels: nor do they seem to learn. This was an exact replica of the Welsh weakness that was so ruthlessly exposed by England.

These tactical errors were compounded by errors of technique. In winning the ball, Wales often failed to retain it, so that while they enjoyed sporadic runs by Robert Jones, Hall and Jenkins in the backs, and Llewellyn and Taylor from among the forwards, they invariably found not only that they could go no further but also that Scotland frequently recovered the advantage.

The home side's decision as to what to do with the ball

— whether to move it on to a supporting player or to go on to form a ruck — was infinitely superior to that of Wales. However, Scotland will find England less accommodating.

Wales seem to have dug themselves into a hole once more. After winning the championship last season, which was followed by a series of games in Canada, the South Pacific and by the World Cup qualifying rounds, which also helped to instil confidence, they again have to recover not only their spirits but also their ideas on how to play the game. Their way back to international prominence is as far away as ever.

On the other hand, Scotland can feel relieved, for the moment, that the five nations' championship, which they seem so much to enjoy, has renewed their once flagging hopes.

Quiet confidence serves England well

By DAVID HANDS

As they used to say in the Westons, "I don't like it, it's too quiet out there." England's preparations for the World Cup in May have yet to hit a significant hiccup: they have won all their international matches and have suffered no serious injury, save the loss of the uncapped Simon Shaw. Can their smooth drive down international rugby's highway be sustained?

There is more. Of the 17 representative teams turned out by the Rugby Football Union this season at senior, A, emerging players, under-21 and senior schools levels, only two have lost: the under-21s to Ireland last October and the schoolboys to New Zealand last month. If that does not argue strength in depth, as England finalise their 26-strong squad, what does?

Would that life were so simple. Weaknesses do remain in the England squad, for all that they have an eye on a grand slam on March 18, and certain aspects of the team pattern need stabilising. Hence the return to the playing fields of Marlow where the



THE ROAD

players spent so much training time before Christmas. The squad gathered there last week, will do so again next week and four more meetings are planned during April, after the World Cup party has been announced.

That is likely to be on March 27, by which time the lessons of the five nations' championship will have been absorbed. The problems with this championship, of course, have been climatic as much as anything: conditions at Lansdowne Road and Cardiff Arms Park were as contrary to what can be expected in Durban as possible, thus the approach against Ireland and Wales had to be tailored accordingly.

But what has emerged is a collective belief and a uniformity of purpose different from anything I can remember, different even from the hard-headed, not to say sullen, group who waged war on the

world in 1991. This England group has a greater understanding of where it is going, and the varying ways it may get there. In addition, the success of the lower teams offers a spur to consistency.

That is a tribute both to the team management and to the application of the players. "It was important in a World Cup season for England to become as much like a club team as possible, with regular contact," Will Carling has said. Hence Marlow, hence the careful conditioning of the players which has permitted them to go through the championship with the same 15 players and through all five senior internationals this season with only 19 players.

For all that, cover remains thin in certain key areas, a fact underlined by the XV8s named last week at A and emerging players level. Wing, stand-off half and lock are all areas for



Redman: vital experience

debate, never mind the ongoing argument over the best back-row combination. If Ian Hunter remains standing between now and mid-May, he will find himself travelling as cover for full back or wing: he is due to discover Durban with the A side which plays Natal on March 18, after five months away from the game, and he will do well to make mental notes of what he finds.

Mike Catt has had a wonderful season as England's full back, less wonderful as Bath's stand-off half. He remains the back-up to Rob Andrew, because behind him the cupboard is bare: neither Paul

Grayson, Paul Challenor nor Jer Harris look international candidates just yet while the emerging players XV which takes on Northern Transvaal in Bristol on Wednesday offers Richard Butland — from Bath's second XV — the chance to shine.

However, the absence of Nigel Redman from the A team is not significant. With the sad departure to the operating theatre of Shaw, the Bristol lock, Redman is a virtual certainty to go to South Africa because he has the experience — of a long international career, of South Africa and of jumping both in the front and the middle of the lineout. The new man in, Gareth Archer, has made huge strides this season but is not yet 21 and is a specialist front jumper.

There remains time for a fall from grace. Scotland lie in wait on March 18, like the scarping party in ambush for the unwary English stage-coach. But when England say they are aware of the pitfalls, they are not mouthing platitudes for the sake of it. It is too quiet out there, but English six-guns are at the ready.

South Africa's vote may be crucial to Welsh bid

By DAVID HANDS

IT IS an intriguing thought that South Africa may hold the balance of power when the time comes next weekend to decide the venue for the 1999 Rugby World Cup. The pre-nominations, by Wales and Australia, take place on Saturday and after the manoeuvring which has taken place over recent weeks, the voting seems likely to be narrow indeed.

After the rift among the home unions, Wales are believed to have altered their bid so as to ensure that the French vote does not go to Australia. Originally, Wales planned four groups of five teams each, with 32 matches in England and Wales, and eight played in Scotland and Ireland.

The Scots and the Irish, predictably, took umbrage and wanted more: the French, whose own bid to host the tournament would have been entirely logical but arrived too late, still hope for a slice of the action and it is understood that Wales have now regressed to something resem-

bling the 1991 tournament, which was a legal and commercial minefield.

The suggestion is that there will be five groups of four teams each, with additional play-offs to determine which other three countries join the group winners in the quarter-finals. So much for geographical hegemony, in both hemispheres, since the Australian bid incorporates pools played in New Zealand and Japan, as well as at either end of their own vast country.

But if the northern hemisphere achieves some kind of unity and the support of such countries as Argentina and Canada go to the southern hemisphere, the stance adopted by this year's hosts, South Africa, could be crucial. They have been part of the southern hemisphere alliance, formed three years ago, but their attitude is said to favour alternate tournaments — thus the next should be staged in the northern hemisphere. A simple majority is re-

quired for the decision, due to be announced by the International Rugby Football Board next Monday. Each of the eight founder members of the board have two votes, with one each to Italy, Japan, Canada and Argentina, who are believed to be interested in staging the 2003 tournament. □ England's vote opened their international season by beating the Italian juniors 29-0 at a wet and windy Camberme on Saturday. There were four tries in play, despite the conditions, none of which went down better with the local crowd than that by the Cornish prop, Vicky.

□ Dudley Wood, secretary of the Rugby Football Union, hopes to be back at work later this week after suffering a broken sternum in a road accident near Saffron Walden, Essex on Friday evening. The driver of the other vehicle involved died and Wood, 64, was taken to Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge but was released on Saturday.

ASHINGTON: BAF

TABLE TENNIS

SV LYNA: National championships: 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26, 2026-27, 2027-28, 2028-29, 2029-30, 2030-31, 2031-32, 2032-33, 2033-34, 2034-35, 2035-36, 2036-37, 2037-38, 2038-39, 2039-40, 2040-41, 2041-42, 2042-43, 2043-44, 2044-45, 2045-46, 2046-47, 2047-48, 2048-49, 2049-50, 2050-51, 2051-52, 2052-53, 2053-54, 2054-55, 2055-56, 2056-57, 2057-58, 2058-59, 2059-60, 2060-61, 2061-62, 2062-63, 2063-64, 2064-65, 2065-66, 2066-67, 2067-68, 2068-69, 2069-70, 2070-71, 2071-72, 2072-73, 2073-74, 2074-75, 2075-76, 2076-77, 2077-78, 2078-79, 2079-80, 2080-81, 2081-82, 2082-83, 2083-84, 2084-85, 2085-86, 2086-87, 2087-88, 2088-89, 2089-90, 2090-91, 2091-92, 2092-93, 2093-94, 2094-95, 2095-96, 2096-97, 2097-98, 2098-99, 2099-00, 2100-01, 2101-02, 2102-03, 2103-04, 2104-05, 2105-06, 2106-07, 2107-08, 2108-09, 2109-10, 2110-11, 2111-12, 2112-13, 2113-14, 2114-15, 2115-16, 2116-17, 2117-18, 2118-19, 2119-20, 2120-21, 2121-22, 2122-23, 2123-24, 2124-25, 2125-26, 2126-27, 2127-28, 2128-29, 2129-30, 2130-31, 2131-32, 2132-33, 2133-34, 2134-35, 2135-36, 2136-37, 2137-38, 2138-39, 2139-40, 2140-41, 2141-42, 2142-43, 2143-44, 2144-45, 2145-46, 2146-47, 2147-48, 2148-49, 2149-50, 2150-51, 2151-52, 2152-53, 2153-54, 2154-55, 2155-56, 2156-57, 2157-58, 2158-59, 2159-60, 2160-61, 2161-62, 2162-63, 2163-64, 2164-65, 2165-66, 2166-67, 2167-68, 2168-69, 2169-70, 2170-71, 2171-72, 2172-73, 2173-74, 2174-75, 2175-76, 2176-77, 2177-78, 2178-79, 2179-80, 2180-81, 2181-82, 2182-83, 2183-84, 2184-85, 2185-86, 2186-87, 2187-88, 2188-89, 2189-90, 2190-91, 2191-92, 2192-93, 2193-94, 2194-95, 2195-96, 2196-97, 2197-98, 2198-99, 2199-00, 2200-01, 2201-02, 2202-03, 2203-04, 2204-05, 2205-06, 2206-07, 2207-08, 2208-09, 2209-10, 2210-11, 2211-12, 2212-13, 2213-14, 2214-15, 2215-16, 2216-17, 2217-18, 2218-19, 2219-20, 2220-21, 2221-22, 2222-23, 2223-24, 2224-25, 2225-26, 2226-27, 2227-28, 2228-29, 2229-30, 2230-31, 2231-32, 2232-33, 2233-34, 2234-35, 2235-36, 2236-37, 2237-38, 2238-39, 2239-40, 2240-41, 2241-42, 2242-43, 2243-44, 2244-45, 2245-46, 2246-47, 2247-48, 2248-49, 2249-50, 2250-51, 2251-52, 2252-53, 2253-54, 2254-55, 2255-56, 2256-57, 2257-58, 2258-59, 2259-60, 2260-61, 2261-62, 2262-63, 2263-64, 2264-65, 2265-66, 2266-67, 2267-68, 2268-69, 2269-70, 2270-71, 2271-72, 2272-73, 2273-74, 2274-75, 2275-76, 2276-77, 2277-78, 2278-79, 2279-80, 2280-81, 2281-82, 2282-83, 2283-84, 2284-85, 2285-86, 2286-87, 2287-88, 2288-89, 2289-90, 2290-91, 2291-92, 2292-93, 2293-94, 2294-95, 2295-96, 2296-97, 2297-98, 2298-99, 2299-00, 2300-01, 2301-02, 2302-03, 2303-04, 2304-05, 2305-06, 2306-07, 2307-08, 2308-09, 2309-10, 2310-11, 2311-12, 2312-13, 2313-14, 2314-15, 2315-16, 2316-17, 2317-18, 2318-19, 2319-20, 2320-21, 2321-22, 2322-23, 2323-24, 2324-25, 2325-26, 2326-27, 2327-28, 2328-29, 2329-30, 2330-31, 2331-32, 2332-33, 2333-34, 2334-35, 2335-36, 2336-37, 2337-38, 2338-39, 2339-40, 2340-41, 2341-42, 2342-43, 2343-44, 2344-45, 2345-46, 2346-47, 2347-48, 2348-49, 2349-50, 2350-51, 2351-52, 2352-53, 2353-54, 2354-55, 2355-56, 2356-57, 2357-58, 2358-59, 2359-60, 2360-61, 2361-62, 2362-63, 2363-64, 2364-65, 2365-66, 2366-67, 2367-68, 2368-69, 2369-70, 2370-71, 2371-72, 2372-73, 2373-74, 2374-75, 2375-76, 2376-77, 2377-78, 2378-79, 2379-80, 2380-81, 2381-82, 2382-83, 2383-84, 2384-85, 2385-86, 2386-87, 2387-88, 2388-89, 2389-90, 2390-91, 2391-92, 2392-93, 2393-94, 2394-95, 2395-96, 2396-97, 2397-98, 2398-99, 2399-00, 2400-01, 2401-02, 2402-03, 2403-04, 2404-05, 2405-06, 2406-07, 2407-08, 2408-09, 2409-10, 2410-11, 2411-12, 2412-13, 2413-14, 2414-15, 2415-16, 2416-17, 2417-18, 2418-19, 2419-20, 2420-21, 2421-22, 2422-23, 2423-24, 2424-25, 2425-26, 2426-27, 2427-28, 2428-29, 2429-30, 2430-31, 2431-32, 2432-33, 2433-34, 2434-35, 2435-36, 2436-37, 2437-38, 2438-39, 2439-40, 2440-41, 2441-42, 2442-43, 2443-44, 2444-45, 2445-46, 2446-47, 2447-48, 2448-49, 2449-50, 2450-51, 2451-52, 2452-53, 2453-54, 2454-55, 2455-56, 2456-57, 2457-58, 2458-59, 2459-60, 2460-61, 2461-62, 2462-63, 246

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10

John Goodbody follows the final steps to a marathon — and Marianne Curphey goes surfing

The last lap to the marathon

Motivation is the driving force in running a marathon. It is why people are prepared to train with unyielding diligence in all weathers and in all conditions for months and often years, and it is what keeps them going to produce the best possible performance during the race.

For Mike Gratton, winner of the London Marathon in 1983 and now aged 40, the ambition for 1995 is to beat the British veterans' record of 2hr 15min 46sec set by Ron Hill.

For Karen Hare, a former breast cancer patient, it is a personal challenge and a way of raising money for the Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund.

For thousands of competitors in the Nutsweet London Marathon on April 2, the last four weeks of training are the most important period of preparation. The month's running has to be tapered carefully to bring the runner to the start at Greenwich in the best possible condition.

Few people are more knowledgeable than Gratton, who is not only one of Britain's most celebrated runners of recent years but also organises tours from his Canterbury office to training camps and international marathons. On March 16, he will lead 140 people to Portugal for training and he hopes to take 300 runners to the New York Marathon in the autumn.

He says: "It is a mistake to taper down too quickly but, on the other hand, if you race a half-marathon in the last few weeks you should reduce the intensity of the effort."

In the last week before a marathon, he recommends a run of between 60 and 90 minutes on the Sunday and then normal training on the Monday and Tuesday. Three days of rest follow. However, on the Saturday "a couple of miles will not do any damage and it is nice to know your legs still work".

During the last few days, as they reduce their mileage, many runners will find they will hunger to train. Gratton recommends that during this period they should increase the amount of carbohydrate they eat, while at the same time drinking plenty of water.

"However, keep your lifestyle as near to normal as possible. On the day before the marathon, he does not believe competitors should spend a long time at the exhibition of running equipment at Olympia. "It will only tire you out and make you stiff. Eat your pasta meal at lunchtime and do not overeat in the evening."

"You should wear the kit in the race that you have already used for a long run. Shoes and shorts may not rub during a five-mile run but may chafe you in a run over 20 miles."

In addition, as Chris Brasher, the founder of the race, puts it: "Put vaseline on any part of the body that moves." Spread grease on your toes, between your thighs

SPORT FOR ALL

and under your armpits. Breakfast should be light: avoid tea and coffee and drink half-a-pint of water in the last ten minutes before the race starts. Run a steady pace and be conservative in your ambitions. There is plenty of time later in the race to increase your pace.

Hare, aged 27, who works for Caremark, a health service, had a lumpectomy and six weeks of radiotherapy last year. She was inspired by watching the 1994 race, in which her brother Dave competed.

She has had a varied background in physical activity. She began training last July but has been hampered by a series of illnesses. "At some stages it has been like taking two steps forward, only to go one step back."

However, accompanied by her brother, she has persevered. "After all the publicity, I have to do it now. There is no getting away from it."

For Hare, and for thousands like her, April 2 will be her own private challenge, experienced and endured in the full gaze of thousands of spectators and hundreds of millions of television viewers in 100 countries across the world.

● The Times will be the only newspaper to be printing all the results of the 1995 Nutsweet London Marathon in the week after the race.

SIXTH MONTH OF TRAINING

Week one: one 50-minute run; two 60-minute runs; one 90-minute run; one 50-minute fartlek session, including three times 10-minute fast running; one 160-minute run (for half-marathon race); rest day.

Week two: one 50-minute run; two 60-minute runs; one 90-minute run; one 50-minute fartlek session; one 120-minute run; one rest day.

Week three: one 50-minute run; three 60-minute runs; one 50-minute fartlek session (either including hills or three times 10-minute fast running); one 80-minute run; one rest day.

Week four: Monday, 60-minute run; Tuesday, 60-minute run; Wednesday, rest; Thursday, rest; Friday, rest; Saturday, gentle 20-minute jog; Sunday, London Marathon.



Mike Gratton, winning the London Marathon in 1983 — his ambition for 1995 is to beat the British veterans' record



Training for the big day in London — Mike Gratton and Karen Hare

Wiped out by board games

Clad head-to-toe in thick black rubber, striding barefoot into a grey, swirling sea, my first attempt at surfing was anything but glamorous. Waves which had seemed small from the shore now threatened to break over my head. The undertow unbalanced me and knocked me off my feet.

Struggling with a huge foam beginner's board, my feet and hands were numb after ten minutes in the icy water. But then the rush happened. I'd paddled out, swung the board round to catch a wave heading towards me, just as my instructor had taught me. Then, still lying on my stomach, I felt a sudden acceleration as the water surged under my board and propelled me at great speed towards the shore. Not realising enough to make me battle once more through the swell for another attempt.

Learning the basics takes about two days. Standing up on a board for any length of time takes months, and riding the waves effectively can take years of practice.

I began in Wales at the end of the summer, when the temperature of the sea was at an annual high but still cold enough to give me a headache when it hit me in the face. Expert surfers prefer the winter, when storms in the Atlantic whip up the water and send huge waves heading inland. Known as "groundswell" they travel for hundreds of miles before hitting the shore.

Though novices practise in the white water, where the waves have already peaked, real surfers paddle out to the green water and rest on their pointed boards, waiting for the "ultimate wave".

Our instructor for the weekend, at the West Wales Windsurfing and Sailing Centre in Dale, near Haverfordwest, taught us the rudiments of waves — how and why they break, the ones to ride and the "dummers" to avoid, (so called because they crash on to the shore, dumping you and your board to a heap).

We learnt about "rips" — currents which drag you out to sea like driftwood but which surfers can use to carry them out to green water with minimum effort.

Then it was off to the beach, where we donned wetsuits, and practised "catching" waves by swinging the board round to face the shore, paddling furiously with arms and legs, and trying to match the speed of the water surging up behind us. The board is tethered to your ankle by a leash, which stops it getting swept away.

We quickly learnt two other new terms: "wipe-out" and

"getting trashed". Both describe the sensation of being pitched off your board as the wave crashes on to the shore.

In the afternoon we were taken to the water's edge and shown how to jump up to a standing position on the board. It looks simple but requires agility and strength.

Supporting your body weight with your arms, you swing your knees between your arms and twist your body sideways. We practised on land, jumping up on boards wedged into the sand, feeling foolish.



Seeking the ultimate wave

Out in the water, I made lots of new mistakes, including "pearl-diving" — landing too far forward on the board and being pitched head-over-heels, and by the end of the day, I still wasn't standing up.

Next morning, my whole body ached as muscles I rarely used had stiffened. After lunch it started to rain. I was so soaked already, it didn't matter, and with just 30 minutes to go before we were to leave, I made a final effort.

I picked my wave, paddled like mad, felt the board lift and accelerate, and gritting my teeth, swung my body forwards. For three seconds I was crouching, wobbling on my feet, and then I slid off, my board hitting my head.

But those few seconds had been enough. I was hooked. Come the spring I'll be there, looking for the ultimate wave.

● West Wales Windsurfing and Sailing, Dale, nr Haverfordwest (0646 63642).

Beef and Lamb dish out little to chew over

Simon Wilde tucks in with two former England internationals but finds the course of cricketing banter decidedly on the lean side

The famous are apt to say that life would be bearable if only they did not have to put up with the dreadful trappings of their celebrity status. Who, they say, needs the cameras, the crowds, the social cachet? Even, one or two will add, the cash? They do, that's who.

Remove those trappings and then see what the once-famous do. Often, after a brief period in obscurity, they are back: retired actors become politicians, retired politicians become radio or television presenters, retired sportsmen become actors. Almost all become social and environmental campaigners. The list of after-lives is endless.

A new favourite is the sportsman-turned-touring-speaker. The stages of theatres and town halls the length and breadth of Britain are filled night after night with the barstool banter of heroes whose hairlines and waistlines have ebbed and overflowed with the tides of time. George Best and Denis Law, Tommy Docherty and Malcolm Allison, Ian Botham and Allan Lamb — they are all at it.

The attraction is obvious. For less than the price of admission to a Premiership fixture or Test match, members of the audience are placed

on a more intimate basis with the performers than at either. Not only is there physical proximity, great play is also made of the fact that, during the question-and-answer sessions, no holds will be barred. These are largely male, drinking occasions. At Sheffield City Hall on Saturday, for "Beef and Lamb in a Stew", there were few trimmings, just a large lounge into which everyone piled before the show and during the interval. When a buzzer sounded, drinks were hurriedly finished. Botham

had clearly not lost his ability to empty bars.

The entertainment began with a half-hour film about the public and private lives of Lamb and Botham. They fished, talked about going to the pub, played cricket, although never before 1989. There was no BBC footage, it was Sky Sports all the way.

After that, Botham and Lamb came on to the stage, looking in pretty good shape. Botham retired less than two years ago and Lamb is still playing county cricket. The

first thing Botham did was adjust his eyes to the lights and sweep the horizon to see what sort of crowd he had commanded. There were five or six hundred of us, which seemed to satisfy him. What sort of innings would he play?

Well, sadly, it turned out to be a Sunday league slog. The questions were submitted on slips of paper and examined by a compère, who tossed them up for Botham and Lamb to hit. There was thus no chance of Botham being delivered an unplayable yorker about Miss Barbados.

The questions were predictable, and so were the answers. Many of the anecdotes were familiar. Some bore repetition, others did not. Confirmation that the rift between Graham Gooch and David Gower was about a difference of character ("One has one, the other doesn't") was amusing but scarcely a revelation.

Another disappointment was the bottle that stood unopened on the table in front of our raconteurs. There were certainly many laddish references to drinking and condoms, much railing against

the establishment, but this would have had more frisson without the suspicion that, in another town hall, at the same time, Best and Law, or Docherty and Allison, were toying exactly the same rebellious line.

Even those deliveries that could have been played straight, Botham chose to hit for six. The audience wanted the truth about ball-tampering, about his most frightening moment, about who he would have in the England side this summer. But he took the easy option and went for the big-hit laughs. The only thing he was serious about was criticising the "system", but that is the one thing he could have been funny about because few people seriously believe Botham will ever be in charge of English cricket.

It was therefore necessary to decode a lot of Botham's material. Decoded, it said that he mistrusts many things foreign; that he was scared of Michael Holding in 1981; and that he does not really want to take charge of English cricket.

My question ("Do you miss playing for England?") was never asked. It did not need to be. Botham answered it, denying it emphatically. The thing was, he did so in reply to another question entirely.

Win a Golf Break for two



Hanbury Manor, Ware, Hertfordshire: one of the resorts where you could stay

With 13 first-class golf courses around Britain, including three European Tour venues, the Country Club Hotel Group is the country's leading name in golf resorts.

Times readers are offered the opportunity to win one of two prizes of a two-night break at one of the group's ten Country Club Resorts.

Answer the questions below and you and a companion could stay in one of the resorts which hosts a major championship. The Forest of Arden Hotel near Coventry will be the venue of the Murphy's English Open for the third year running in June, while the St Pierre Hotel at Chepstow will be hosting the Solheim Cup in 1996.

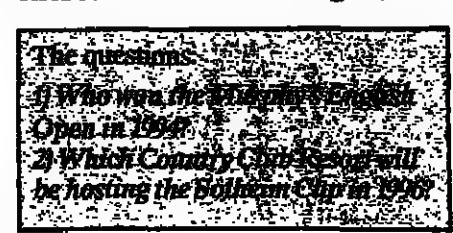
The Country Club Hotel Group is the official venue supplier to The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge and five of its resorts have been chosen to host regional finals in 1995.



The prize, includes two nights' dinner, bed and breakfast. Winners will be picked at random from all correct entries received by the closing date of March 16, 1995. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply. Send your answers with

your name, address and daytime phone number to: The Times Golf Contest, PO Box 6885, London E2 6SR.

For more information on the Country Club Hotel Group call 01582 567899.



FAX
0171 782 7899

POSTS



David Jewell MA MSc.

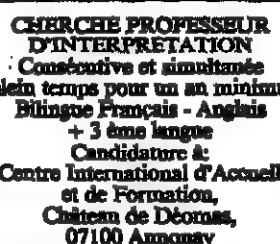
Further particulars, including a summary application form, may be obtained from:

The closing date for applications is 19 April 1995.

Registered Charity No 310013



**Further details are available from the
Personnel Department,
Canterbury Christ Church College,
Canterbury CT1 1QU.
Tel. 01227 782567/782642 or 01227
782475 (24 hour answerphone).**



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PROVISION OF TRAINING SERVICES

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TICK THE BOXES FOR WHICH YOU REQUIRE INFORMATION

TENDER OPPORTUNITY

The Health and Safety Executive is seeking expressions of interest from potential bidders for contracts to provide a range of training services for staff currently numbering around 4,500.

This training will take place at HSE's own training centres in Bootle, London and Sheffield as well as a variety of locations throughout Great Britain, and the categories of training are shown below. Organisations who express an interest in delivering any of these categories will be sent more detailed information about HSE and the training required.

You will also receive an appraisal questionnaire which seeks background information on your company, details of its accounts, trading history, previous track record, and qualifications and experience of staff. This information will form the basis for the selection of a shortlist of companies who may be invited to tender.

Please tick those categories for which you wish to receive further information and return the form (by 31st March 1995) to: Ms C Longden, Health and Safety Executive, Room 1304 Daniel House, Stanley Precinct, Bootle, Merseyside L20 3TW.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS



University of Durham

Professor of Greek

An outstanding scholar with an international profile in research is sought to fill the Chair of Greek in the Department of Classics and Ancient History from 1 October 1995 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Applicants should have a distinguished record of research and publications in an area of ancient Greek studies other than history and archaeology.

The salary will be by negotiation within the professional range.

For informal discussion of the post, please contact Dr O.T.P.K. Dickinson or Professor A. J. Woodman on 0191-374 2871.

Further details may be obtained from the Director of Personnel, Old Elbow Hall, Durham, NE2 2RH, to whom applications (in duplicate) should be submitted, including the names of three referees, by Friday 14 April, 1995. Candidates outside the British Isles may submit one copy only. Please quote reference 0223. Tel: 0191-374 2144/ fax: 0191-374 4747/ e-mail: S.A.Woodman@durham.ac.uk

Investing in Excellence in Teaching and Research.

POSTS

WEST SUFFOLK College

BURY-ST-EDMUNDS

WEST SUFFOLK COLLEGE

PRINCIPAL (CHIEF EXECUTIVE)

The Corporation of West Suffolk College invites applications for the post of Principal (Chief Executive) to succeed John Shipston, who is to retire on 31 August 1995.

The Corporation wishes to appoint a Principal with vision and strong leadership qualities, capable of demonstrating well-developed management experience and broad knowledge of further education. The post offers the opportunity to direct and develop a very successful College with 2,700 FTE students and a budget of £8.5 million.

Please apply in writing enclosing your curriculum vitae to Chairman of Governors, c/o Juliet Ralph, Personnel Manager, West Suffolk College, One Rabygate, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP33 3RL; telephone 01284 716213 (direct line).

Closing date for applications is 17 March 1995.

West Suffolk College is an Equal Opportunities employer.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS



Liverpool John Moores University

JMU is committed to achieving equality of opportunity

Director of The Liverpool Business School

Ref: 05408 We are seeking an outstanding individual with a proven record of achievement either as a distinguished academic, or from the business community, to direct the Liverpool Business School, following the appointment of the present Director to a Chair at Durham University.

The post will present interesting challenges in the development of the School's portfolio of undergraduate and postgraduate business and management courses, and research, scholarly and commercial activities.

Consideration would be given to the secondment of an outstanding individual from his or her current organisation.

A Chair will be available for a suitable successful candidate.

Closing date 24th March, 1995.

Tel: Please quote reference when applying.

0151-231 3584 Further particulars are available from: Personnel Services,

0151-231 3584 Liverpool John Moores University,

0151-231 3520 Rodney House, Mount Pleasant,

0151-231 3520 Liverpool L3 5UX.

24 hour answering machine EMAIL: J088@JULIV.JM

POSTS

UNITED WESTMINSTER SCHOOLS FOUNDATION



WESTMINSTER CITY SCHOOL

Palace Street, SW1

Originating from a seventeenth century Christian Foundation, Westminster City School is today a heavily oversubscribed, voluntary aided independent school for over 100 boys. Gifted and talented at the sixth form level. The school enjoys the financial and administrative support of the United Westminster Schools' Foundation of which it is a constituent part with Bunsford and St James' Valence Schools.

On the retirement of Westminster City's eminent Head Master, Michael Bingham, the governing body seek to appoint, from September 1995 a successor with a conspicuous record of leadership and management skills. The successful applicant is likely to be a serving Head and an excellent team player with the vision to carry this distinguished school forward.

The new Head will bring to the post proven skills in the development of high standards of quality and academic achievement in an inner city school.

Salary will be in the range of points 34-44 according to experience and qualifications and there are London allowances totalling £2,772.

Please write or telephone for further particulars to the Clerk and Receiver, 30 Palace Street, London SW1E 5HT (0171 838 3057).

The closing date for applications is 20 March 1995.

RESEARCH

JAPAN FOUNDATION ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE GRANTS FOR RESEARCH

The annual income from a donation made by the Japan Foundation is available for disbursement by a Committee established under the auspices of the former UGC, specifically for the promotion of the academic subject of Japanese Studies in degree awarding institutions within the UK. In 1992 the Committee revised its method of operation, and now only invites applications for small grants for the support of research; it should be noted that grants are normally unlikely to exceed £5,000, and that most will be substantially smaller. Applicants should be members of staff in UK degree-awarding institutions; applications may not be made directly by students, although grants may be sought by staff for the support of research student projects. Student coursework cannot be funded.

Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from the Secretary, Japan Foundation Endowment Committee, c/o the University of Sheffield, Fifth Court, Western Bank, Sheffield S10 2UH, by whom completed applications must be received by Friday 28 April 1995 at the latest.

Founded in 1925, the University of Sheffield provides higher education within a research led environment. We encourage equality of opportunity for all.

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UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Archaeology Prizes

The Gerald Aveny Wainwright Prize for Near Eastern Archaeology aims to stimulate interest in the Ancient Near East (including Egypt) in young people of secondary school age. They take their name from the Egyptologist and archaeologist Gerald Wainwright (1879-1964).

Prizes are offered for essays or projects on aspects of the history, archaeology, society, or art, of any country or countries from Morocco to Afghanistan (including Cyprus, Israel and Anatolia) in the ancient (but not classical, i.e. dealing with the Greeks or Romans) period. The entries should be between five and ten thousand words in length, and include relevant illustrations and list of works consulted. Candidates should be attending a recognised school in the U.K., although candidates taking a year off between school and University are also eligible.

Further details may be obtained from: Mrs Judith Brown, The Gerald Aveny Wainwright Near Eastern Archaeological Fund, University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD, to whom entries may be sent at any time during the academic year 1994-95, but by 30 September 1995 at the latest.

The University exists to promote excellence in education and research.

COURSES

Sorbonne University, Paris
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Further details and application forms from: Brian Peltan, Faculty of Technology, University of Plymouth, Drake Circus, Plymouth, Devon PL4 8AA. Tel: 01752 232608.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

essex

Department of Law

TWO POSTS OF READER/ SENIOR LECTURER/LECTURER

Due to its continuing expansion this Department is seeking to fill two further academic staff posts. Appointments will be made at Reader/Senior Lecturer/Lecturer level depending upon experience and qualifications of the successful applicants.

The Department is committed to excellence of research and teaching. Both research and teaching are carried out in teams within the Department and in interdisciplinary groups.

Applications are particularly welcomed from those with an interest in Common Law, Trusts, Public Law or International Law.

Salary will be on the Senior Lecturer scale (£27,016 - £30,533 per annum), the Lecturer A scale (£14,756 - £19,326 per annum) or the Lecturer B scale (£20,133 - £25,735 per annum).

Informal enquiries may be made to Professor J. Dine on Colchester (01206) 873542.

Applications (12 copies), including a curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of two referees, should reach the Personnel Officer (067271), University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex, CO4 3SQ by 12th April 1995. Further particulars of this post may be obtained by telephoning Colchester (01206) 872462 (24 hours).

Working Towards Equal Opportunities

POSTS

WORCESTER COLLEGE OXFORD

Appeal Director

The College wishes to appoint an Appeal Director from 1 July 1995 or as soon as possible thereafter. A five year Campaign will begin in 1996.

The post is open equally to men and women. The successful applicant will have energy and good organisational skills, and be capable of projecting the needs of the College with confidence and enthusiasm. Previous experience of fund raising would be an advantage.

The appointment will be for a fixed term of two years, at a salary within the range £25,000 - £35,000, and carrying a Fellowship of the College with full membership of the Governing Body and Common Room.

Further particulars and an application form may be obtained from the Bursar's Secretary, Worcester College, Oxford OX1 2PS. Tel: 01865 270625. Fax: 01865 270627. Closing date for completed applications is 3 April.

The College exists to promote excellence in education and research.

Stratford upon Avon College offer

A two year residential 'A' Level programme studying in the beautiful surroundings of Stratford-upon-Avon. The College promotes learning within a relaxed and informal atmosphere and actively encourages individuals to reach their full potential.

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- Opportunity to access additional programmes complementary to students' chosen selected 'A' level packages.
- Social events and activities.
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Students are accommodated within host families and will also enjoy the benefits of the College support and guidance programme.

For further information please contact:

The College Marketing Office, Stratford-upon-Avon College, The Wilton, North, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire

Tel: 01799 264265 Fax: 01799 267294

Int Tel: +44 1799 264265 Fax: +44 1799 267294

LECTURESHIPS

The Queen's University of Belfast LECTURESHIP IN LATER MEDIEVAL HISTORY OR LECTURESHIP IN AMERICAN HISTORY

This lectureship has been established to enhance the School's research output and to support teaching in either later medieval British and Irish history, or the history of the USA in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Applicants must have a degree or equivalent in history, a doctorate and publications in either of these areas which will make a significant contribution to the School's forthcoming Research Assessment.

Informal enquiries to Professor Jupp, Director of School (01232) 245133 ext 3423.

Salary Scale: Lecturer Grade A: £14,756 - £19,326, or, for suitably qualified applicants, Grade B: £20,133 - £25,737 per annum with eligibility for USS. Assistance with relocation as appropriate.

Applications, including a full curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of three referees, should be addressed to the Personnel Officer, The Queen's University of Belfast BT7 1NN, Northern Ireland (01232 245133 ext 3044/3246 or FAX (01232) 324944/310629). Closing date: 24 March 1995.

Committed to an Equal Opportunities policy and selection on merit, the University welcomes applications from all sections of the community. Under its affirmative action programme it particularly welcomes applications from women for academic posts.

essex

Department of Law

TEACHING FELLOWS/ SENIOR TEACHING FELLOWS

The Department of Law is responsible to an expanding student body and wishes to make three appointments to Teaching Fellowships, tenable from 1st September 1995. Applicants should be qualified in law, preferably with some experience in teaching law at undergraduate level. Ideally candidates should have expertise in educational methods of teaching as well as assessment, curriculum design and the creation and development of core legal skills.

Appointments will be within the salary range £13,941 - £25,735 per annum and will be on three year rolling contracts.

Applications (10 copies), including a curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of two referees, should reach the Personnel Officer (067271), University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, Essex, CO4 3SQ by 12th April 1995. Further particulars of this post may be obtained by telephoning Colchester (01206) 872462 (24 hours).

Working Towards Equal Opportunities

UNIVERSITY OF KENT AT CANTERBURY

DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL

The University of Kent at Canterbury invites applications for the newly established post of Director of Personnel.

The Director will be Head of the Personnel Office which provides a comprehensive range of Personnel, Staff Development, Equal Opportunity and Industrial Relations services to the university. It is expected that the Director will hold IPD or other relevant professional qualifications, will have significant experience in Personnel Management, preferably with Higher Education, and be educated to graduate level.

For further details please contact the Registrar's Office, The University, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NZ. Telephone (01227) 762349 Fax (01227) 41684. Email: T.J.Mead@kent.ac.uk. For an informal discussion about the post, prospective applicants may contact the Registrar, Dr Timothy Alred, as above.

Salary within Grade 6 of Administrative, Library and Computing Scales, minimum £31,158 per annum.

Closing date for applications: 20th March, 1995.

The University is committed to implementing its Equal Opportunities Policy. Excellence in higher education at Britain's European University.

50212101

Source: Firstcall

Young to launch fightback on top directors' pay

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

THE Government is set to fight back in the row over pay rises for top executives of privatised utilities by emphasising the benefits to Britain and industry of the privatisation programme.

The move comes on the eve of Cedric Brown, chief executive of British Gas, being questioned again by MPs on his pay package and is a clear attempt by ministers to push public debate away from the damaging issue of top pay and towards what has widely been seen as a success for the Conservatives.

MPs on the Commons' all-party Employment Select Committee will quiz Mr Brown and Richard Giordano, British Gas's chairman, tomorrow on pay after the disclosure of new bonus arrangements for top British Gas executives in addition to Mr Brown's recent 75 per cent salary increase.

But today, Sir George Young, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, will go on the offensive. In a speech in London to a conference on world privatisation, Sir George will emphasise the primary benefits of taking industries

out of the public and into the private sector — better performance, better management and better for public finances.

Maintaining that the Government has overturned conventional wisdom in this area, he will say that privatisation of the utilities has been one of the most striking successes of the range of policies through which this Government is marrying private sector skills to public sector services.

He will also highlight what the Government sees as the under publicised secondary benefits of privatisation. These include the increase in the number of private shareholders and the demystification of the procedure of buying and selling shares. He will also point to the creation of new industries, embracing the way road networks are planned, financed and operated, and the establishment of highly marketable City expertise on privatisation, currently being sought around the world.

Sir George said yesterday that the move was part of a strategy to put the privatisation debate "back on the main

road, focusing on the fundamentals" rather than on the less important issue of executive pay, which he said had been fully dealt with last week by John Major, in promising to consider legislation on the issue if necessary.

Speaking to *The Times*, Sir George said he thought the arguments over the pay of senior directors in privatised utilities had "obscured" the successes of privatisation. He argued that the issue ranged beyond the utilities to general company pay through the subject of share options, which will be examined in the Commons this week in the committee consideration of the Finance Bill.

He pointed out that most of the public argument about privatisation was won, citing as evidence that the Labour Party has few commitments to return privatised businesses to the public sector.

Labour is likely to seize on Sir George's speech today as evidence of how far the row over top pay in the utilities has rattled the Government, and that ministers are now seeking to sidestep the issue.



Sir George Young wants to put the privatisation debate "back on the main road"

Belling pension members hope for third time lucky

By Liz Dolan

THE 1,500 members of the Belling pension fund will this week learn whether they have won their battle with the Law Society for nearly £3 million.

Law Debenture, the independent trustee, maintains that, as the money was missing from a client account, the pension fund should be compensated by the Law Society's compensation fund.

The compensation fund committee meets on Wednesday to decide whether it should reverse two earlier decisions — last March and last June — to reject the claim. On both those occasions, it ruled that the problem was a pensions matter and, therefore, nothing to do with the society.

The compensation committee only agreed to a further hearing after Law Debenture had obtained leave for a judicial review.

If the money is not repaid, the pensions of up to 850 deferred pensioners could be affected.

The claim relates to the payment of US\$3.5 million by the fund's previous trustees to the solicitor, Charles Deacon, in May 1991 as advance interest on a \$30 million loan.

However, the loan, which had been intended to prop up ailing businesses owned by

Belling, did not materialise.

Belling went into liquidation in February 1993 and the pension fund was wound up. When Mr Deacon was declared bankrupt two months later, the cash was no longer in his client account. The trustees claim that it had been misappropriated by him.

Andy Gibson, of the Law Debenture Trust Corporation, said: "We think our claim is valid. We got a judgment against Mr Deacon in the civil court in May 1993, but he was bankrupt and couldn't pay."

Mr Gibson added: "If the Law Society rejects our application for the third time, we will first analyse the reasons and, if our lawyers feel the reasoning is not sound, we will go for a further judicial review."

The Staffordshire Fraud Squad is believed to be bringing charges against Mr Deacon for fraud later this year.

It is thought that the Law Society may also be considering claims for compensation from some of his other clients.

The 650 scheme members who were already receiving a pension when the fund was wound up in 1993 will be unaffected by Wednesday's ruling.

Sir Colin turns over a new leaf

Something strange happened to Sir Colin Southgate, chairman of Thorn EMI, last week. This beefy six-footer, renowned for his hard-nosed business sense, was making distinctly uncommercial noises. Having snapped up Dillons, the bookshop chain, for a canny price within hours of the receivers being called in, Sir Colin went on record as saying: "The British book industry is first and foremost a tremendous cultural asset, of which we should be very proud."

Could this be the Sir Colin who once said that selling his computer business for millions of pounds enabled him "to lift two fingers to the world"?

It seems the bookselling industry does funny things to people. Making money appears to take second place to safeguarding the soul of the nation. It is unsurprising that booksellers talk in these terms. After all, it is hard to make money in bookselling. It is something you do for love not profit.

A specialist bookshop stocks up to 120,000 product lines, many selling only once or twice a year. It must select stock from the 650,000 books in print and pick the best of the 80,000 new ones published every year. Specialist bookshops, by all the laws of commerce, should not be able to make money.

For much of their history they haven't. There have been two stages in their evolution. First was the era of the small independent stores, often gloomy places run by book lovers whose snobbishness was only exceeded by their inefficiency.

Then Waterstones and Dillons came along in the 1980s. With their modern prime high street stores and more sophisticated methods they

revolutionised bookselling. But they still weren't money-spinners.

If you are going to have 120,000 books in a shop, you need state-of-the-art systems and tight management control. Last week an unexploded bomb was found in a Dillons store almost two years after it is thought to have been planted. If you can't keep tabs on the quantities of Semtex in the store, you are unlikely to be fully in control of the stock situation.

It is no accident that Dillons is now in the hands of a large corporation like Thorn, and Waterstones part of WH Smith. This is the only profitable way forward for specialist booksellers. Sir Colin may still speak the same rhetoric as his predecessors — after all, he has got to mollify the publishing community — but he is in the business of making as much money as he can out of selling books.

And the industry needs him. The Net Book Agreement is set to go, opening the door for supermarkets, overseas book chains and anyone else who fancies getting in on the act. The threat to the indigenous specialists is substantial.

Waterstones and Dillons have strong brand names, which will help. But the real advantage they have is that they can now share costs and clever computer systems with their bigger parents. Waterstones has done well from leveraging off the WH Smith retail chain; Dillons has the same opportunity with HMV, Thorn's music chain.

Sir Colin can opt in on the sanctity of books as much as he wants, but that's what I call a real cultural asset.

SUSAN GILCHRIST

The National Power and PowerGen Share Offer

Share Offer

National Power PLC

PowerGen plc

International Offers and UK Public Offer by

The Lords Commissioners of HM Treasury

Allocations of National Power Shares and PowerGen Shares sold under the UK Public Offer and the UK Retail Tender have been provisionally made as set out below.

The provisional allocations are conditional on, prior to 5 April 1995, the International Offer Prices being determined by HM Treasury and accepted by the Managers by execution and delivery of the Purchase Memorandum contemplated by the International Offers Agreement. It is expected that this will occur early on 6 March 1995 and will be announced as soon as possible thereafter. Dealings in Interim Rights on the London Stock Exchange are expected to commence at 7.30 a.m. on 6 March 1995.

Dealings will not commence unless and until the provisional allocations have become unconditional.

Joint Global Co-ordinators and Bookrunners

Kleinwort Benson Securities

Barclays de Zotte Wedd Securities Limited

Number of Shares duly applied for	Provisional allocations in respect of applications by Share Shop registrants				Provisional allocations in respect of applications on Public application forms	
	Qualifying shareholders		Non-shareholders		National Power Shares	PowerGen Shares
	National Power Shares	PowerGen Shares	National Power Shares	PowerGen Shares		
200	120	80	120	80	120	80
300	180	120	180	120	180	120
400	240	160	195	130	180	120
500	300	200	210	140	nil	nil
600	330	220	225	150	nil	nil
700	360	240	240	160	nil	nil
800	375	250	240	160	nil	nil
900	390	260	240	160	nil	nil
1,000	420	280	255	170	nil	nil
1,500	540	360	285	190	nil	nil
2,000	630	420	300	200	nil	nil
2,500	720	480	nil	nil	nil	nil
3,000	780	520	nil	nil	nil	nil
4,000	870	580	nil	nil	nil	nil
5,000	975	650	nil	nil	nil	nil
10,000	1,800	1,200	nil	nil	nil	nil
15,000	2,700	1,800	nil	nil	nil	nil
20,000 and above	30 per cent of the number applied for	30 per cent of the number applied for	nil	nil	nil	nil

Provisional allocations in respect of applications by eligible employees of National Power and PowerGen on Employee application forms

All employee applications have been met in full

Provisional allocations in respect of bids at or above the International Offer Prices in the UK Retail Tender

	National Power Shares	PowerGen Shares
PEP Bids	100 per cent of the number bid for	100 per cent of the number bid for
Non-PEP Bids	At least 65 per cent of the number bid for	At least 55 per cent of the number bid for

Individuals should contact their Retail Tender Broker for details of their specific allocation

Notes:

- References to applications are to applications which have been duly made and not rejected. This advertisement does not constitute acceptance of any application.
- Interim Certificates are expected to be despatched on Monday 13 March 1995. Despatch of Interim Certificates by Share Shops may be later than this date.
- Applicants who deal before receipt of an Interim Certificate will do so at the risk of selling Shares for which they have not received an allocation.

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TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.27	2.10
Austria Sch	17.35	15.85
Belgium Fr	50.85	48.55
Canada \$	2.361	2.291
Cyprus Cyp£	0.770	0.715
Denmark Kr	6.85	9.05
Finland Mkk	7.70	7.05
France Fr	6.52	7.97
Germany Dm	2.48	2.27
Greece Dr	382.00	367.00
Hong Kong \$	13.07	12.07
Ireland Pt	1.05	0.97
Israel	5.261	4.531
Italy Lit	275.00	260.00
Japan Yen	167.50	151.50
Malta	0.613	0.598
Netherlands Gld	2.757	2.587
Norway Kr	10.87	10.07
Portugal Esc	252.50	234.00
S Africa Rd	161	149.00
Spain Pta	212.00	199.00
Sweden Kr	12.33	11.33
Switzerland Fr	2.10	1.92
Turkey Lira	rel	65157.0
USA \$	1.705	1.575

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

CHANGE ON WEEK

THE POUND

US dollar 1.6250 (+0.0445)
German mark 2.3294 (-0.0014)
Exchange index 87.9 (+0.8)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 2301.6 (-3.7)
FT-SE 100 3025.1 (-12.6)
New York Dow Jones 3989.61 (22.13)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 17039.62 (-433.32)

Singapore is one of the few financial centres more secretive than the City of London. The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) is traditionally a model of discretion, controlling the country's banks and foreign institutions quietly but firmly.

So it caused much surprise here at the weekend that the MAS held a press conference at all to discuss the Barings affair, but the holding of the conference was far less devastating than the material from Barings that was disclosed at it.

In one short hour, the Singapore International Monetary Exchange (Simex) and Price Waterhouse, which was appointed by the courts a week ago as judicial manager for Barings Futures Singapore, exploded the myth that Nick Leeson was a lone rogue trader taking his vast positions in futures without anyone realising. The evidence and documents presented leave many senior managers of Barings with some tricky questions to answer on who knew what when.

The Singapore authority's assault on the accepted version of events surrounding the Barings crash came in two main salvos during the question-and-answer session that followed the predictably bland official statements. First, PW flourished a fax from James Bax, the head of Barings in Singapore. It was written almost three years ago, before Barings had even taken its seat on Simex, and warned the group's head of equities of the dire consequences

of giving Mr Leeson too much power. "We are in danger of creating a structure which will... succeed in losing a lot of money or client goodwill or probably both," Mr Bax had said. Michael Lim, PW's managing partner in Singapore, described these words as "prescient".

In some respects, the fax is a class piece of office politics. Mr Bax is annoyed that his comments have been disregarded and he whinges at one point that he has been left off a fax distribution list. However, the letter shows that a senior Barings manager gave warning that the group was flirting with disaster and was completely ignored. He makes it clear that if Mr Leeson was put in charge of both front-office and back-office operations at Simex, he wanted no part of it, which is probably why Mr Leeson reported directly to London.

The letter suggests that it was Ian Martin, then finance director of Barings, who was keen to see Mr Leeson in this dual role. He may have been stirred by cost considerations. Simex was, after all, a fringe activity for Barings and expatriate workers do not come cheap.

Throughout the affair, Mr Bax



NEIL BENNETT
IN SINGAPORE

has remained silent, in spite of having had his office raided and his passport confiscated and having been questioned by police for hours. Not many people could show so much loyalty to their firm in such circumstances when they knew they were right all along.

After the letter, it was Simex's turn in the press conference to put the boot into Barings. Its legal adviser said that Anthony Hawes, the group treasurer, made a £6,000-mile round trip to Singapore at the start of February. At a meeting with Simex, he showed that he knew about the large futures positions that the

group was running and reassured the exchange that the positions were properly financed and that margin calls would be met. In all, Barings had sent its Singapore futures subsidiary \$51.3 billion (£55 million) since the start of the year to fund futures positions.

This destroys any suggestion that Mr Leeson's activities came as a shock to Barings. Only two explanations are possible. One is that Barings did not understand Mr Leeson's trades and thought that they were for a client or protected by hedges. The second is that the bank knew about the situation in full and hoped that Mr Leeson could trade his way out of trouble.

The first explanation is unfeasible, the second unthinkable. It is impossible to believe that the management of Barings, however badly they handled internal controls, would have allowed Mr Leeson to put the group's existence at risk.

The first theory has more weight. The centre-piece of the Singapore Commercial Affairs Department's case to extradite Mr Leeson is a document, which, it alleges, he forged. It shows that £7.6 billion (£50 million) was transferred into a

non-existent City bank account in the name of Baring Futures. If there are any other documents like this, it is possible that a complex paper trail was created to deceive the management of Barings that the Simex contracts were being held for clients.

By disclosing such startling information, the Singapore authorities are, naturally, working to an agenda. After the collapse of BCCI in 1991, the MAS was pleased to the point of arrogance that it had repeatedly refused to license the bank while the Hong Kong authorities suffered from the collapse so miserably. Now that Singapore has had a crash on its doorstep, the authorities are determined to show that it was not their fault and that Singapore's growing financial market has not been harmed.

They have a persuasive case and one can sense the cold anger towards Barings and the Bank of England, which, Singapore feels, should have prevented the crash. It is significant that Simex chose two US firms, including Goldman Sachs, to close the Barings positions, ignoring large British firms on the exchange, such as BZW and HSBC.

The collapse of Barings is unravelling like a mystery novel. A 233-year-old bank does not just vanish overnight. For reasons of their own, the Singapore authorities have proved that its management had ample opportunity to prevent the collapse. Now the management of Barings should come up with some good explanations.

Lady Chalker is a formidable advocate of poverty relief, says Janet Bush

Voice of debt forgiveness



Flying to the aid of poor nations: Lady Chalker puts the British view this week

Baroness Chalker, Minister for Overseas Development, is unusual. A Conservative minister who is widely liked. In 1992, John Major won the election but Lynda Chalker lost her seat. The first was greeted in Uganda with resignation, the second with genuine horror and disappointment. Made a peer after the election, Lady Chalker is an effective voice for Britain's overseas development efforts and is in charge of diplomatic relations with Africa.

This week, she leads the British delegation to the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, which, according to the final negotiating text, will be devoted to addressing "poverty, unemployment and social exclusion". She will be a formidable advocate of social policies to supplement the economic reforms undertaken by many countries in return for funds from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

The British Government stance is that sound economic adjustment policies must be accompanied by poverty relief to help to ameliorate the often painful effects. But social programmes are desirable in their own right.

In an interview with *The Times*, Lady Chalker said: "I happen to believe that poverty alleviation is a successful economic policy." She said she hoped that the Bretton Woods Institutions, which do not have a good record of sensitivity to social — as opposed to economic — problems, would make a "constructive effort" in Copenhagen this week.

This week too, Lady Chalker will see the first fruits of efforts over the years to persuade governments to forgive some of the debt of the world's poorest nations. Uganda last week became the first African country to be offered debt forgiveness under the Trócaire Terms. This week, it is expected to accept formally.

This is a milestone in a long campaign by the British Government, enthusiastically spearheaded by both John Major, as Chancellor and Prime Minister, and Kenneth Clarke. They have been trying to persuade other industrialised countries to embark on a pack of two lovely baddocks, mini-prawn layered salad, a prawn and mayonnaise sandwich and — a bag of bananas!

giveness, rather than endless and, as history shows, pointless rescues.

Some say it was Lynda Chalker who first persuaded Mr Major, during his three-month sojourn at the Foreign Office in 1989, of the importance of debt forgiveness. In 1990, Mr Major came up with the Trócaire Terms, suggesting that governments should write off 50 per cent of the stock of debt of those very poor debt countries which had a good record of economic reform.

In subsequent international meetings, British delegations continued to push unwilling partners to implement and improve the terms. Finally, after years of obdurate resistance in some quarters — notably Japan — the Group of Seven agreed at the Naples Economic Summit last year to

endorse plans to write off two thirds of the bilateral debt of the poorest countries. The Paris Club of government creditors in turn took the terms on board.

Trócaire or Naples Terms mean forgiveness of £235 million of Ugandan debt, but this is a fraction of total debt, much of which is owed to multilateral lenders such as the IMF and the World Bank and their financial affiliates.

The next step in the British Government's campaign is to persuade these lenders to bite the bullet of debt forgiveness. Mr Clarke will push the issue at next month's interim meetings of the IMF and World Bank.

Rather than straightforward debt write-offs, Britain

has suggested a sale of a proportion of the IMF's \$40 billion gold reserves to be reinvested in securities issued by the Government of industrialised nations. The interest flows from these securities would be used to finance a new form of lending to the most indebted poor countries. Interest would be set at 0.5 per cent and repayments may not have to begin for between five and twenty years.

This formula is designed to meet concerns within the IMF that its financial soundness would be compromised, but the proposal met stubborn resistance at the annual meeting of the IMF and World Bank in Madrid last autumn.

Although the gold proposal has so far got nowhere, the principle of highly concessionary terms for the most indebt-

ed countries has already been accepted by the Bretton Woods lenders. Lending under the IMF's ESAP (Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility) is at an interest rate of 0.5 per cent; lending by the IDA, the World Bank affiliate that specialises in loans to the poorest countries, is at 0.75 per cent.

This suggests some scope for persuasion. Lady Chalker, who privately believes that many poor countries can never repay their debt and that generous debt forgiveness is a rational way to move forward, believes that attitudes will gradually change.

She noted that there had been much resistance to the Brady Plan for commercial bank debt write-offs and to the Trócaire Terms. Both had been gradually worn down.

Lady Chalker will emphasise the importance both of debt forgiveness and social programmes in a speech today to the University of East Anglia's Development School. In Copenhagen, too, she will push these issues.

Mr Major is not expected to attend next weekend's summit, held under the auspices of the United Nations, but 55 other world leaders, including Presidents and Prime Ministers from France, The Netherlands, Belgium, and Italy, and Al Gore, Vice-President of the United States, have formally accepted invitations.

This is the first time in the history of the UN that heads of state will meet in order to deal specifically with social development and the high turnout of leaders is evidence of the increasing desire of politicians to be seen by their electorates to be tackling social, as well as economic, issues.

But it is also important that the IMF and the World Bank recognise such concerns. After many years in which the focus of lending policies was macro-economic reform, it is only relatively recently that the World Bank has acknowledged the need to tackle social deprivation and poverty if economic change is to prove sustainable.

The Social Summit is an idea whose time has come, but, like all such international gatherings, it is doubtful whether anything more than good intentions will emerge.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Gas still heavier than oil

BRITISH GAS is bottom, and, for the second quarter running, BP is top in *Presswatch Quarterly*, which monitors national press coverage. By raising Cedric Brown's salary 75 per cent and then cutting wages of low-paid shop staff less a month later, British Gas provoked a storm of articles, thereby earning itself a minus 2,398 rating in the December quarter, and ending in 1,044th place. Second from bottom was Cunard after negative press coverage of the QE2 Christmas fiasco. Others near the bottom of *Presswatch's* table are Mercury (-759), British Rail (-735) and Eurotunnel (-722). Warburg, which was a runner on its profit warning alone, and then secured its low ranking when it fell out with Morgan Stanley, is placed 1,036th, between Dixons and Railtrack, with a -499 rating. The average listed company had a 37 rating in the quarter, debunking the idea that the press prints only bad news.

Rule Britannia

MARKS & Spencer is celebrating 20 years of the opening of its first store in continental Europe — on Boulevard Haussmann, Paris. Twenty years on, the store's top ten best-selling food lines are decidedly un-French. They are: pack of two English muffins, ham and mustard sandwich, Indian meal for two, white sandwich loaf, pack of four English muffins, miniolette egg sandwich (the one French item), 50 Earl Grey tea bags, chicken tikka masala, Irish salmon sandwich and (thank you, Gerald Ratner) an M&S prawn sandwich. So what are the five best-selling food items in the UK? The answer is: a pack of two chicken breast fillets, a pack of two lovely baddocks, mini-prawn layered salad, a prawn and mayonnaise sandwich and — a bag of bananas!

Bad vibrations

IF YOU still don't understand what derivatives are all about, and are too embarrassed to ask the difference between a put and a call, perhaps you will understand this. From *The Investors Compensation Scheme* comes news of claims from two former clients of the now dissolved Dealshare "future-introducing broker" of Stafford who suffered losses because of the firm's "Epsilon" trading system — "this trading system supposedly applied the 'fundamental law of vibration' to the speculative markets to enable market movements to be forecast accurately". I kid you not.

And thank you, Joan Woodard of Fleet Hargate for this one: I suppose you think it witty. But you do it so well Mr Colin Campbell. It's quite the thing in the City.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Safety and credit quality paramount

Since the start of the year, there has been a modest rise in gilt prices, though more recently the market seems to be suffering from an early bout of the summer doldrums. Nevertheless, gilts have shrugged off sterling weakness on the foreign exchanges, evidence of emerging cost pressures and the usual diet of unsettling political news.

On the economic front, the top-side nature of the recovery is more apparent as consumers retrench in the face of higher mortgage rates, higher taxes and little in the way of job opportunities. Exports remain strong, reflecting improving recovery in Britain's export markets in Europe and improving competitiveness on the international stage. Our exporters are becoming efficient low-cost producers taking a slightly larger share of world markets.

Sterling's weakness against the mighty German mark will no doubt do wonders for UK

exports. Fortunately, from the Treasury's and the Bank of England's point of view, sterling slippage against a weak US dollar has been modest. Given the importance of this exchange rate on imported inflation, it is just as well that the dollar is weak.

Already, producer input price inflation is at double-digit levels. Last Friday's co-ordinated round of central bank intervention will probably do little to turn round the long-term downward trend in the dollar. Unlike last November's intervention from the Federal Reserve, an aggressive interest rate rise to back up that intervention does not seem to be on the cards. Likewise, the Bundesbank is unlikely to alter its rates. If anything, given the above-trend growth in the German economy and evidence of cost pressures, the Bundesbank will want to tighten monetary policy soon to ensure that next year's inflation rate in Ger-

many stays below 3 per cent. These factors and the difficulties in Mexico are not helpful to the dollar and I would not be surprised to see it breach its all-time low of 1.40 against the mark, and then move down to 1.25 on a 12-month view.

Typically, sterling tends to get caught in the crossfire of the big currency moves, though it also has a tendency to move

with the dollar. But being a politically sensitive exchange rate, international investors have had little incentive to buy sterling assets. If anything, they have been net sellers of gilts over the past few months. This is in spite of what seem to be good economic fundamentals in which the more bullish pundits would cite a structural improvement in UK inflation and a sharp improvement in

the balance of payments. But during times of financial stress, in which there seems to be a constant flow of bad news, whether Orange County, Mexico or Barings, investor appetite for risk is not surprisingly low.

In such circumstances, it is safety first and credit quality paramount. This means that investors prefer to be with the tried-and-tested hard currencies such as the mark, yen and Swiss franc. Investors also prefer to be in cash or hard currency government-backed securities. Liquidity is essential, and for governments such as Italy and Sweden, with unsustainable fiscal policies, investors price in a substantial risk premium. Until there is an inevitable restructuring in debt, then economic theory predicts upward pressure on real interest rates and/or a depreciation in the real exchange rate for these countries.

In this regard, Britain is now meeting a cleaner bill of fiscal

health, although investors will be wondering whether electoral pressures will force undue Budget laxity. Sterling's status as a "soft currency" is the legacy of muddled economic management over decades.

My guess is that, in the run-up to the next election, sterling will weaken further by as much as 10-20 per cent from current levels against the mark. If that is right, gilts will have a tough time, especially if, over the near term, the interest-rate optimism that has underpinned the recent rally in the US bond market starts to reverse. Should Mr Clarke worry about the exchange rate? I hope not. Exchange-rate targeting has an unhappy history in the hands of British Chancellors. In that regard, uncertainties over the longevity of the economic recovery suggest caution over the need for higher interest rates.

NEIL MACKINNON
CitiBank

RADIO CHOICE

Land of hope and prairie

The Monday Play: A Small Plot of England. Radio 4, 7.45pm.

Graham Harvey's agrarian drama is about a 20th-century Gerrard Winstanley. He headed the Diggers, the 17th-century socialist sect whose attempts to make agricultural land "a common treasury for all" ended violently. Harvey's Winstanley (Michael Lumsden) is an itinerant farming contractor whose vague idealism acquires muscle when he throws in his lot with a band of New Age travellers. Their vision of Utopia is an England in which all farming land would be converted, to practice, with cows replacing bison. Predictably, not everyone is happy about the prospect of 55 million Britons having to go out hunting for the Sunday roast.

Time and Changes. Radio 3, 4.30pm.

By continuing to give Derek Drescher a generous run of programmes, Radio 3 implicitly acknowledges the exhaustive nature of the producer's profiles of jazz musicians. Eight weekly slots, no less, have been allocated to his series charting the five performing decencies of Stan Tracey, pianist, band leader and composer. Once again, Drescher has entrusted the job of narrator/interviewer to the ever reliable Geoffrey Smith. He does not waste any time in stripping away whatever metaphysical trappings the series' title may imply. For Tracey, time simply means swing, and changes means chord structures. The opening episode explores the impact that established jazz musicians had on the young Tracey. Peter Daville

RADIO 1

PM Stereo. 4.00am Chris Warren 6.30 Steve Wright 8.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa L'Amour 12.30 12.45pm News and at 1.15 The Mel 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier 12.00 5.30-6.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session 8.00 Alan Parker 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 10.50pm Lynne Pearson

RADIO 2

PM Stereo. 6.00am Sarah Kennedy 6.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.15 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.50 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Fiona Armstrong 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Hubert Gregg 7.30 Malcolm Laycock with Denise Bend Days and 8.00 Big Band Era 8.30 Big Band Social 8.00 Humphrey Lytton 10.00 Adventures in Jazz 10.30 The Jazzmen 12.00am Digby Fairweather with Jazz Notes 1.00 Steve Macdonald with Night Ride 3.00-5.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, Int at 5.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 8.35 The Magazine, Int at 10.35 Euronews; 11.00 Actuality 12.00 Midday with News, Int at 12.30pm Liz Barclay with Moneycheck 2.05 Finance on Five 4.00 John Inverdale Networkwide 7.00 News Extra, Int at 7.20 sport 7.25 Voices of the Old Firm: rivalry between football clubs Rangers and Celtic 8.00 The Monday Match: Liverpool vs Southampton 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, Int at 11.45 The Financial Times Tonight 12.05am The Other Side of Midnight 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Maurice Dees and Carol McGiffin 10.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna Radburn 4.00 Tommy Boyd 7.00 Samantha Marshall and Sean Rogers 10.00 Caesar the Gossip 1.00am Wild At Heart

RADIO 3

6.30am Open University 6.55 Weather 7.00 On Air: Monaco (Commissioner mes pavesco); Vivaldi (Violin Concerto in E, RV269), The Four Seasons (Spring); Francaix (Wind Quintet No 1); 8.05 Saint-Saëns (Phaeton, Op 39); Brahms (Scherzo in E flat minor, Op 4); 8.30 Quartet Collection: Haydn (String Quartet in B flat, Op 71 No 1) 9.00 Compositions of the Week: Swedish Romances: Emil Sjogren (Erling); Violin Sonata No 1 in G minor; Legends Op 46 10.00 Musical Encounters: Handel (Concerto Grosso in B flat, Op 3 No 1); 10.10 Bach (Mozart: Der Gast hilt unner Scheuchel auf der BWV 226); 10.20 Art of the Week: Steven Isserlis, Glazunov (Song of the Minstrel, Op 19); 10.25 Pavel Lebedev (The Shepherd Boy); 10.35 Sex (Northern Ballet No 1); 11.05 Purcell (Incidental Music: The Georgian Knot Unit); 11.15 Bach (Cello Suite in E flat minor, BWV 1011); 11.40 Brahms (Schicksalslied, Op 54) 12.00 Festival tale — Britten at the Opera: Charles Villiers Stanford (The Travelling Companion: Chorus of the Royal Opera House, BBC Concert Orchestra) 1.00 BBC Lunchtime Concert: Schubert (Aberdeen); Hornetwinkler: Der Jüngling auf dem Hügel; Nachtmusik; Das Mädchen; Der Tod und das Mädchen; Wiedersack; Mauserspiele (Songs and Dances of Dance)

RADIO 4

6.55am Shipping 6.00 News 6.10 Farming Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, Int at 6.30 7.00 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 8.55 7.55 Weather 7.25 8.25 Sports 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 History File: Stuart Simon asks: is anything ever new in the news? 8.55 Weather 9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week: Melvyn Gregg and Doris Koyama are joined by David Weekes, Rupert Sheldrake, Philip Dodd and Professor Eileen Barker 10.00 News 10.05 Wotchy Wise (FM only) 10.10 Daily Service (LW only) 10.15 Something Understood (LW only): Spiritual anthology 10.30 Women's Hour 11.30 Money Box Live: 071-680 4444, with Vincent Dugdaley 12.00 News: You and Yours, with David Brehan 12.25pm Counterpoint: First semi-final of the music quiz conducted by Ned Sherrin 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One, with Nick Clarke 1.40 The Archers (1.55) 2.00 News: The Newgate Calendar: The Tragic Life and Shattered Death of Mary Bland. The second of two plays by Christopher Denys 3.00 The Afternoon Shift, with Louise Taylor 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope: Lynne Walker reviews a new production of Macbeth set in gangland Manchester in the 1960s, and an exhibition of "grotesque portraits"; and members of the Nash Ensemble play live

RADIO 1: FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2: FM 88-90.2. RADIO 3: FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198. RADIO 5: 930kHz/433m; 908kHz/330m. LONDON RADIO: 1152kHz/251m; CAPITAL: 1548kHz/104m; FM 95.8. GLR: FM 94.9; WORLD SERVICE: MW 648kHz/463m. CLASSIC FM: FM 100-102. YRRG: MW-1215, 1197, 1242 kHz. TALK RADIO: MW 1085, 1053kHz. Listings compiled by Linda Galloway and Sarah Harding

Dutch remain favourites to take Barings

BY MELVYN MARCKUS
AND NEIL BENNETT

LATE last night, as talks continued over the future of Barings, the Dutch financial services empire, remained favourite to acquire the stricken banking enterprise.

ING, advised by Robert Fleming, had been granted exclusive due diligence rights but expectations that agreement might be reached by yesterday evening proved premature.

Thema rival to ING's widely publicised hopes of acquiring Barings for £1 remains ABN Amro, the Dutch bank which has been holding talks with Smith Barney, the US broking house. The focus of ABN's attention is Barings' corporate finance department. Members of Barings' corporate finance operation are known to favour a deal with ABN Amro which, in recent days is reported to have liaised with Sandy Weill, head of Travelers Inc, the US combine that controls Smith Barney.

Although ING was perceived as the front-runner last night, word had it that ABN Amro was also interested in Barings' asset management arm, particularly if it could divest Barings Securities to Smith Barney.

The Singapore authorities have revealed that they have closed all of Barings' loss-making futures contracts more than a week before their expiry deadline.

The Singapore International Monetary Exchange (Simex) confirmed at the weekend that all the Nikkei futures positions built up by Nick Leeson have been sold. Simex is believed to have used Goldman Sachs and another US securities firm in the operation.

The exchange would not say how much the futures contracts had lost but it is believed to be around £200 million.

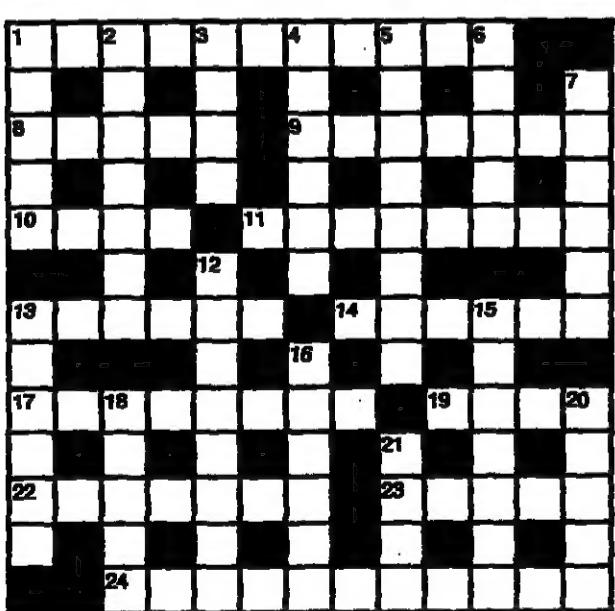


Barings also ran up heavy losses on the Osaka Stock Exchange in Japan. Simex also revealed that although Barings Singapore was one of the biggest traders in the futures market, its operations were extremely limited. Officially, it only dealt for four clients and three of these were other Barings' subsidiaries in London, Tokyo and Hong Kong. The firm's only outside customer was Banque Nationale de Paris, which is not implicated in the firm's collapse in any way. The limited scope of the business has intensified speculation in the Singapore financial markets over how Mr Leeson was allowed to build up such large trading positions.



Peter Baring: crisis

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 412

ACROSS

- 1 Highly gratified (7,4)
- 8 Section of wall, door (5)
- 9 Competitive struggle for livelihood (3,4)
- 10 Instrument face with pointer (4)
- 11 Goodbye (8)
- 13 Official dress of emperor, cardinal (6)
- 14 Cowardly (6)
- 17 Graspingness, greed (8)
- 19 Winter flakes (4)
- 22 Intestinal infection, usu. from impure water (7)
- 23 Tip over (2,3)
- 24 Buchan novel (11)

DOWN

- 1 Lukewarm (5)
- 2 Mythical man/horse (7)
- 3 Lounge lazily (4)
- 4 The Picture of — Gray (Wild) (6)
- 5 Overdrawn (2,3,3)
- 6 Villain; court-card (5)
- 7 Genial; sweet and ripe (6)
- 12 Facial bruise (5,3)
- 13 High-seas brigandage (6)
- 15 Merciful (7)
- 16 Tension; tune (6)
- 18 Time (5)
- 20 Tapered block (5)
- 21 American cat, the cougar (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 411

ACROSS: 1 Oberon 5 Solace 8 Feast 9 Vagabond 10 Herbal 12 Yolk 15 At one's wits' end 16 Drug 17 Dispel 19 Foot-sore 21 Buff 22 Gender 23 Eeyore

DOWN: 2 Beekeeper 3 Rut 4 Novelty 5 Sign 6 Lobbyists 7 Con 11 Benighted 13 Longed for 14 Mind's eye 18 Lour 20 Owe 21 Buy

CROSSWORD BOOKS: The Times Complete Crosswords (Books 1 & 2 £5.99 each), Books 3-4 £5.99 each, NEW Book 7 £4.50 each, The Times Jumbo Crosswords: (Books 1 & 2 £5.99 each), Concise Book £5.99, The Times Crosswords: (Books 1 to 13 £4.99 each), Books 14 to 18 & NEW Book 19 £4.50 each, The Sunday Times Crosswords: (Book 1 £4.99), Books 10, 11, 12 & NEW Book 13 £4.50 each, The Sunday Times Concise Books 1, 2, 3 £4.50 each. Except the jumbos in brackets, software available for all titles for IBM PCs and Acorn Archimedes computers — Price £14.95 each — also The Times Computer Crosswords Vols 1 to 6, The Sunday Times Vols 1 to 6 and The Times Jumbo Edition. Prices inc p&p (UK). Cheques with order payable to A&M Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 9QW. Tel 0181-852 4575 (24 hrs). No credit cards.

Share prices for generators unveiled

Power sale set for premium

BY ROSS TIEMAN

PART-PAID shares in National PowerGen are expected to reach an instant premium today after the £4 billion sale of the Government's remaining stakes was heavily oversubscribed.

Shares in National PowerGen, the larger of the two generating companies, will be sold in the UK Public Offer for 476p. PowerGen shares will cost 512p. This gives small investors a 10p discount to the terms for institutional investors, also fixed yesterday afternoon.

Small investors have been allocated 51.3 per cent of the offer, rather than the 40 per cent planned at first. At allocation level, the UK Public Offer was 1.6 times subscribed. Individual investors may find allocations scaled back, but in most cases, those who sought fewer than 400 shares will find requests met in full.

Some 1.07 million investors offered to invest an average of about £2,800 in Britain's two biggest private-sector generating companies, even though the final price had yet to be fixed. A further 5.3 per cent of shares offered have been allocated to the UK Retail Tender, under which rich individuals could bid for equity alongside institutions. All applications for shares to top up tax-avoiding personal equity plans will be met in full, but others face scaling-back.

The number of shares available to British and overseas institutional investors in the International Offer has been scaled back to leave more for individuals. Institutional investors will receive little more than 10 per cent of the shares they sought at the striking price. Many were expected to try to top up their holdings when stock market dealings begin at 7.30am today. One executive close to the sale said: "A lot of institutions have got zero allocations. That could lead to quite a lot of buying, but that doesn't mean they will buy on day one."

Government advisers indicated that, even though the institutional offer was nine times subscribed, they had not felt able to raise the strike price further. "The Treasury chose to strike a balance between maximising proceeds while ensuring a healthy after-market," said a spokesman for the advisers.

Analysts expect the part-paid shares to attract a premium of up to 20p. As in past privatisations, the shares are payable in three instalments, payable over 18 months. Dividends on the part-paid shares give an



Privatising power: Tim Horlick, left, Kleinwort Benson director, with Ivan Wilson, of the Treasury, and Amir Eilon, managing director of BZW, yesterday

unusually high rate of return to investors, and enable the Government to demand a higher price for the stock.

That is why shares in National Power, which accounts for some 60 per cent of the offer, are being priced in the Public Offer at 476p, against a closing price on Friday of 456.5p. The Public Offer price of PowerGen

shares is 512p, against a market price of 492p.

Simultaneously with the public offer, the companies will buy back and cancel shares worth some £800 million, equal to 7.7 per cent of National Power equity and 7.6 per cent of PowerGen.

Under provisional allocation arrangements, existing shareholders who applied via a share

shop for a mixed package of 500 shares or fewer will receive all they sought. Those who sought more will find allocations scaled back progressively. Those seeking 20,000 or more receive only 30 per cent of those sought. Non-shareholders who applied via share shops for 300 shares or fewer will be satisfied in full, with bigger requests trimmed.

New pay settlements are higher

Bonus battle, page 1
Prison conditions, page 5
Time for answers, page 42

MORE than three-quarters of deals in the new-year pay round have been above the level of settlements agreed a year ago, according to leading specialists Industrial Relations Services (Ross Tieman writes).

Although average annual pay awards remained at 3 per cent during January for the third month in a row, new awards are now at their highest since March 1993.

The latest IRS report says: "A combination of rising inflation, sustained recovery and more buoyant profit margins are serving to raise pay expectations."

Upward pressure on pay deals, combined with growing evidence of rising prices for raw materials and industrial intermediates, will cause concern among ministers and at the Bank of England, and increase the likelihood of a rise in interest rates.

Directors' pay, page 41

Trafalgar starts final push to win Northern

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

TRAFALGAR HOUSE will this week launch a last ditch effort to clinch its £1.23 billion touch-and-go battle to take over Northern Electric.

The construction to shipping conglomerate will seek to unseat institutional investors by questioning the financing of Northern's defensive plans to hand back £560 million to shareholders. Nigel Rich, Trafalgar's chief executive, hopes that worries over rising interest rates and regulation may stampede investors, who believe Northern is worth more than £12 a share, into accepting Trafalgar's £11-a-share offer.

The outcome of the first bid for a privatised electricity company in Britain will be decided by fund managers. Small shareholders, who control 19.3 per cent of the company, appear largely hostile to the offer. A number of private investors have formed a campaign group to fight the Trafalgar offer, which closes at 1pm on Friday.

At the inaugural meeting of the Northern Electric Small Shareholders Association last week, attended by some 120 individuals, shareholders voted by more than ten to one to oppose the offer. Their aim: to preserve an independent regional electricity company in the North East.

Northern Electric shares have shown little sign of any shift in sentiment in response to lobbying by each side. They closed at £10.56p on Friday, down just 2p from the day when Trafalgar lifted its all-cash offer to £11.

If Northern succeeds in fighting off Trafalgar, it will hand back £5.60 a share to its investors in a mixture of cash, preference shares, and dividends. The proposals amount largely to a "front-end loading" of the rising dividend payments that most of the remaining 12 regional electric-

ity companies in the UK are expected to make during the next five years.

But to fund the cash payout, Northern will have to raise its gearing to 225 per cent by extending its borrowings. SG Warburg, the merchant bank defending Northern, has promised to arrange facilities for a £350 million loan.

Trafalgar is calling — so far unsuccessfully — for the Take-over Panel to oblige Northern to disclose what interest rate will be payable, and what, if any, covenants will be applied.

A Trafalgar spokesman said: "They are turning a nice safe regional electricity company into a very highly geared and much less safe animal."

But with a £5.60 a share payout on offer, and a monopoly licence extending to 1998 to underpin Northern's core electricity distribution business, a crucial proportion of shareholders may yet prove willing to take that risk on board.

Glaxo on course to win Wellcome

BY MELVYN MARCKUS, CITY EDITOR

GLAXO'S £9 billion takeover bid for Wellcome still remains the only offer on the table. The City has always been sceptical about the likelihood of a counterbid emerging, in spite of the widely held belief that Zeneca, led by chief executive David Barnes, would dearly like to achieve a merger with Wellcome.

Wellcome's share price at £10.41 showed a 4p discount against Glaxo's share and cash terms on Friday. Speculation that a counterbidder may emerge over the weekend proved ill-founded, although Wellcome's camp showed little

inclination to throw in the corporate towel yesterday.

Glaxo is reported to have approached Zeneca prior to its £9 billion offer for Wellcome, which is underpinned by Wellcome Trust's "irrevocable" acceptance in respect of its 39.5 per cent stake — subject to a counterbid emerging before Wednesday's first closing date.

Mr Barnes did nothing to dampen speculation last Thursday when he claimed that Zeneca could put together the financing to bid for Wellcome if necessary. Mr Barnes emphasised that such a deal was "hypothetical". In his

words: "We have a very strong balance sheet and we are down to zero gearing. I am sure that financing of that scale could be put in place."

Sir Richard Sykes, chief executive of Glaxo, has completed a comprehensive roadshow with City institutions. Fund managers are understood to be supportive of Sir Richard's arguments in respect of industrial logic. Wellcome, for its part, has not disputed the logic of a merger, its opposition being based on price.

The possibility of the Stock Exchange or the Takeover Panel pressing Zeneca to clarify its intentions cannot be ruled out.

Central banks to renew aid for dollar

BY COLIN NARBROUGH

CENTRAL banks are today set to renew efforts to halt the dollar's slide as an air of crisis grows in currency markets.

The European Union monetary committee was last night in emergency session in Brussels. Spain asked to devalue after weakness in the peseta, caused by political worries, was exacerbated by upward pressure on the German mark as investors switched from American dollars. The peseta closed near new lows of 88.44 to the mark on Friday. Portugal, whose economy is closely linked with Spain's, may be forced to devalue the escudo.

The US Federal Reserve, backed by 16 central banks, including the Bank of England, failed to reverse sentiment for the dollar on Friday, in spite of concerted intervention in support of the ailing currency.

The dollar slumped to a post-war low of 93.75 in New York on Friday and was driven down to a two and a half year low of DM1,472. Even the pound, although weakened by political uncertainties, drew strength from troubles blighting the dollar.

The European monetary committee can endorse devaluation of the peseta and the escudo or seek their departure from the European exchange-rate mechanism until Spain's economic problems are resolved. Both countries are likely to resist leaving the grid. However, devaluation within the ERM might be seen as a short-term fix that would leave it open to further instability.

In 1993, the ERM bands of variation were widened from 2.25 per cent and 6 per cent to 15 per cent.

Bearishness towards the dollar has grown since last month's US plan to grant Mexico \$20 billion to support the peso. Remarks by Alan Greenspan, the Fed chairman, suggesting reluctance to raise US interest rates again soon, led hedge funds and investment banks to sell dollars.

With the dollar nearing 900, corporate Japan may have to re-evaluate yen, in line with Japanese rules on foreign-exchange losses, and the dollar's plight could worsen as the German, Swiss and Japanese currencies become beneficiaries of this.

Currency turmoil, page 1

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